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Trump expected to seek \$8.6B for border wall in new budget

By LISA MASCARO

AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will seek \$8.6 billion in his new budget to build the U.S.-Mexico border wall, two administration officials said Sunday, setting up another showdown with Congress, which has resisted giving him more money for his signature campaign promise.

The request would more than double the \$8.1 billion already potentially available to the president after he declared a national emergency at the border in order to circumvent Congress once lawmakers refused his funding demands. That standoff led to a 35-day partial government shutdown, the longest in U.S. history.

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In this March 6, 2019, photo, President Donald Trump speaks in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press



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Powell says Trump's attacks played no role in rate pause

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell says political attacks by President Donald Trump played no role in the Fed's decision in January to signal that it planned to take a pause in hiking interest rates. He also said in an interview broadcast Sunday that he can't be fired by the president and that he intends to serve out his full four-year term.

In a wide-ranging interview with CBS's "60 Minutes," Powell said that the Fed decided to pause its rate hikes in January, after increasing rates four times in 2018, because the global economy was slowing and other risks to the U.S. economy were rising. The Fed said it planned to be "patient" in deciding when to change rates again.

Asked to define patient, Powell said, "Patient means that we don't feel in any hurry to change our interest rate policy."

At another point, Powell said the Fed felt its interest rate policy "is in a very good place right now" with the benchmark rate in a range of 2.25 percent to 2.5 percent, which Powell said was "roughly neutral," meaning the Fed's policy rate was not stimulating growth or holding it back.

"We think that's an appropriate place for an economy that has the lowest unemployment in 50 years, that has inflation right about at our 2 percent objective, that has returned significantly to good health," Powell said.



In this Jan. 30, 2019, file photo, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell speaks at a news conference in Washington.

Associated Press

Powell said in the last three months, the Fed has seen increasing evidence of a global growth slowdown with slower activity in China and Europe and potential threats from such events as Brexit, Britain's planned exit from the European Union.

"We've said that we're going to wait and see how those conditions evolve before we make any changes to our interest rate policy and that means patient," Powell said in the interview with Scott Pelley.

Powell said that despite outside criticism, the Fed will always "make decisions based on what we think is right for the American people. ... We will never, ever take political considerations into effect."

Asked if Trump could fire him, Powell said: "The law is clear that I have a four-year term. And I fully intend to serve it."

Powell's appearance on "60 Minutes" continued a tradition begun by then-Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke, who appeared on the program in March 2009,

breaking a long tradition of Fed leaders not giving television interviews.

Bernanke's appearance came during the depths of the Great Recession when the country was losing millions of jobs and the country struggled to get out of the deepest downturn since the 1930s.

Bernanke and Powell's immediate predecessor, Janet Yellen, both appeared with Powell during the Sunday broadcast. Powell was picked for the top Fed job by Trump after the president decided not to offer a second term to Yellen. Both Bernanke and Yellen were asked what advice they had given Powell on withstanding outside criticism.

Bernanke said he kept a quotation from Abraham Lincoln on his desk saying that if your decisions turn out to be correct, the criticism will not matter. Yellen said that she and Powell had worked together closely on the Fed and that Powell was doing a good job of being "inclusive" in his decision-making.

Trump has been highly critical of the Fed's rate hikes, calling the increases his biggest threat. Trump's attacks were frequent last fall when the stock market was plunging in value, a drop that the president blamed in part on the Fed's rate hikes.

Trump has not been as vocal about the Fed since the Fed announced it would be "patient" about future rate hikes, but in a March 2 speech he referred to Powell, without using his name, as a "gentleman" who likes raising rates and who likes tightening credit.

In his 2009 appearance, Bernanke talked about "green shoots" and said he felt the recession would "probably" be over by the end of 2009 if the efforts by the Fed and other government agencies were successful in stabilizing the banking system following the 2008 financial crisis.

The country did emerge from the recession in mid-June of 2009 and is currently in the tenth year of an expansion that will become the longest in U.S. history if it lasts past this June.

"The outlook for our economy, in my view, is a favorable one," Powell said. "This year, I expect growth will continue to be positive and continue to be at a healthy rate."

The Fed in January signaled that due to a slowing global economy and other economic risks, it had decided to be "patient" in deciding when to raise interest rates again. Powell also delivered that message last month in testimony before

Congress. While the Fed in December had signaled it expected to raise rates two more times in 2019, many economists believe the central bank will now keep rates unchanged for a prolonged period and may not hike rates at all this year.

The economy grew at a solid 2.9 percent rate in 2018, helped by Trump's tax cuts and billions of dollars of increased government spending. But economists believe that support will wane this year and with the global economy slowing, the U.S. economy is likely to slow to growth of just above 2 percent.

On other topics, Powell: __Said he did not see much evidence that financial markets had gotten "irrationally exuberant" but he did say that there were some areas that were "hotter than others" such as leveraged lending being extended to corporations.

__Said that while the economy might achieve annual growth of 4 percent in some years it would be difficult to have an extended period with growth that high because growth in the labor market and productivity, the two factors that determine overall growth, had both slowed.

__Described the federal government's growing debt burden as an "unsustainable path but said at the moment the country was "not on the verge of a debt crisis or anything like that." He said the government will ultimately find a way to deal with the debt problem. □

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Trump expected to seek \$8.6B for border wall in new budget

Continued from Front

The officials confirmed that the request was part of Trump's spending blueprint for the 2020 budget year that begins Oct. 1. That document, which sets the stage for negotiations ahead, proposes boosting to defense spending to \$750 billion -- and standing up the new Space Force -- while reducing nondefense accounts by 5 percent, with cuts recommended to safety net programs used by many Americans. The plan sticks to budget caps that both parties have routinely broken in recent years and promises to come into balance in 15 years, relying in part on economic growth that may be uncertain.

The officials were not authorized to publicly discuss budget details before Monday's release of the plan and spoke on condition of anonymity.

White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said Trump's budget "points a steady glide path" toward lower spending and borrowing as a share of the nation's economy.

He also told "Fox News Sunday" that there was no reason to "obsess" about deficits, and expressed confidence that economic growth would top 3 percent in 2019 and beyond. Others have predicted lower growth.

Budget proposals are merely a starting point, but leading Democrats immediately rejected the president's border request.

"Congress refused to fund

his wall and he was forced to admit defeat and re-open the government. The same thing will repeat itself if he tries this again," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York. They said the money "would be better spent on rebuilding America."

The budget arrives as the Senate readies to vote this week to terminate Trump's national emergency declaration.

The Democratic-led House already did so, and Trump's Republican allies in the Senate, uneasy over his move, are expected to follow suit. Many lawmakers view the declaration as an overreach of executive power.

Congress appears to have enough votes to reject Trump's action, but not enough to overturn his pledged veto.

The new border wall request is coming on top of the money Trump already could have access to after declaring a national emergency last month, although there's no guarantee he'll be able to use that money if he faces a legal challenge, as is expected. Trump took that step after Congress approved nearly \$1.4 billion for border barriers, far less than the \$5.7 billion he wanted.

Through the national emergency, Trump can also tap an additional \$3.6 billion from military accounts and shift it to building the wall. That's causing discomfort on Capitol Hill, where even the president's Republican

allies are protective of their power to decide how to allocate federal dollars. Lawmakers are trying to guard money that's already been approved for military projects in their states -- for base housing or other improvements -- from being shifted to build the wall.

The wall with Mexico punctuated Trump's campaign for the White House, and it's expected to again be featured in his 2020 re-election effort. He used to say Mexico would pay for it, but Mexico has refused to do so. □



In this Dec. 3, 2018, file photo White House chief economic adviser Larry Kudlow talks with reporters about trade negotiations with China, at the White House in Washington.

Associated Press



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House infighting: Does Pelosi have a tea party problem?

By **LISA MASCARO** and **LAURIE KELLMAN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A restive group of newcomers. Baffled party leaders. Fiery conversations behind closed doors that spill into public view and threaten to upend legislation.

After a wrenching week for Democrats, it's hard not to wonder: Does Speaker Nancy Pelosi have a tea party problem?

Emboldened by their ability to seize the spotlight and shape the national debate, a core group of high-profile freshmen Democrats are driving an agenda that could define the party for years to come. Much like the tea party conservatives who vaulted Republicans to power a decade ago,



Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., left, joins Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., as Democrats rally outside the Capitol ahead of passage of H.R. 1, "The For the People Act," a bill which aims to expand voting rights and strengthen ethics rules, in Washington, Friday, March 8, 2019.

these Democrats' firm ideology and wait-for-no-one swagger have set off a fight for the future of the party. This week they helped sway

the House majority during the emotional debate over how to respond to remarks from freshman Rep. Ilhan Omar that were viewed

by some as anti-Semitic. In a party meeting, another freshman, Rep. Jahana Hayes, was unafraid to question Pelosi and other leaders who sought to find a middle ground and balance the complaints of other members.

That could be a preview of what's to come. Some of the same lawmakers who defended Omar are pushing the party to endorse drastic steps to tackle climate change with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Green New Deal. They're ready to impeach President Donald Trump, openly defying Pelosi's resistance to the idea.

Looking ahead, newly-elected Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., said the events so far have "made us stronger."

The difference between the old and new guard is not just about policy. It's also about tactics. The newcomers, from a generation decades younger than their leaders, are uninterested in House culture that once rewarded freshmen who waited their turn and kept their heads down. Some in the new class make their case on social media and use America's curiosity about them to their advantage.

"Right now, we're feeling more and more heard and seen here," she said.

The challenge ahead is whether Democrats can fulfill their promise of showing Americans they can govern and not slip into the disarray that tangled Republicans when they controlled the House.

The tea party class came to Washington in 2011, handing the reins to House Speaker John Boehner, but only rarely taking his lead. The hardline conservatives

were able to capitalize on built-in leverage points to flex their power on priority issues — using budget battles to cut spending or using the debt limit deadline to rein in deficits. They hung together, even as they threatened to shut down government by refusing to give their votes to pass legislation.

The empowered liberal freshmen don't appear to have as clear a strategy. They are mainly free agents with their own brands and followings, which they leverage in similar but sometimes different ways. Their voices, and millions of social media followers, are perhaps their most valuable currency.

The debate over Omar's comments — a fight over race, identity and tolerance — clearly hit a pressure point, creating some unexpected alliances between the newcomers and other members. They quickly found allies among the older guard.

The passion in the debate took some leaders by surprise and made for a complex solution. What started out as a denunciation of anti-Semitism ended up being a debate over how to say the party stands against bigotry. And it ended what amounted to a four-month honeymoon for the House Democrats.

Not all freshmen are eager to be branded as young, liberal and restless.

While much of the attention has flowed to Omar, Ocasio-Cortez and their fellow travelers on the left flank, another freshman, Rep. Donna Shalala, a former Cabinet secretary who represents a Miami-area swing district, said other freshmen expect to be heard, too. □

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Fire chief dies, suffers emergency at firefighter's funeral

By MARINA VILLENEUVE
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — A town fire chief has died after suffering a medical emergency at the funeral for a fire captain who was killed while shielding a colleague from flames, Maine Gov. Janet Mills said.

Oxford Fire Chief Gary Sacco suffered the emergency and died Sunday as several thousand people, including hundreds of firefighters from across New England, gathered to honor Berwick Fire Capt. Joel Barnes' sacrifice. Barnes was fatally injured in the four-alarm fire earlier this month.

Maine Medical Center spokesman Matt Wickenheiser confirmed that Sacco was admitted to the hospital while attending the memorial service in Portland, Maine, The Boston Globe reported.

Wickenheiser told the Globe that Sacco was pronounced dead at the hospital. No further details have been released.

"Our hearts, already broken by the loss of Captain Joel Barnes, also mourn the loss of Oxford Fire Chief

Gary Sacco. In a testament to his own character, Chief Sacco lost his life while honoring that of his fallen brother, fellow firefighter Captain Barnes," Mills said. "I join with people across Maine in offering my thoughts and prayers to Chief Sacco's family and friends, the Oxford Fire Department, and all of Maine's first responders. The State of Maine has given two of its best to the Heavens."

Barnes made the "ultimate sacrifice," Berwick Fire Chief Dennis Plante said.

"He is my hero," Plante said.

The service was held Sunday at the Cross Insurance Arena, one of the few venues in Maine big enough to host such a large gathering. The 32-year-old Barnes was the first firefighter to die while battling a fire in at least three decades in Maine.

Barnes' uncle, also named Joel, grew teary as he described a nephew who grew up dedicated to serving the community as a firefighter. He recalled how an elderly neighbor once gave a plastic fire-



A firefighter from St. Johnsbury, Vt., salutes during a memorial service for Berwick Fire Capt. Joel Barnes, Sunday, March 10, 2019, in Portland, Maine.

fighter hat to then-toddler Joel, who soon became "obsessed" with studying fire science books and preparing himself for a career that took him from Maine, to Massachusetts, to South Carolina and back to his family in Maine.

"Without hesitation, he gave his life to save the

life of another firefighter," Barnes said. "And he did it in the most selfless, courageous way possible."

Maine Gov. Janet Mills lowered flags to half-staff to honor Barnes. She said his life and service exemplified "unflinching courage, selflessness and love for his fellow man." □

Associated Press

Judge orders woman held after shooting of Chicago officer



This undated photo provided by the Chicago Police Department shows Emily Petronella.

Associated Press CHICAGO (AP) — A judge has ordered a 19-year-old woman held without bond on attempted murder and other charges in the shooting of a Chicago police of-

ficer serving a warrant. Police say Emily Petronella fired a shot through a door Saturday night, striking the 34-year-old officer in the shoulder. The officer is expected to recover.

Petronella also is charged with aggravated assault of a peace officer, armed violence while discharging a weapon, aggravated discharge of a weapon at a peace officer and dealing more than 5,000 grams (176 ounces) of cannabis. She also faces a misdemeanor bail bond violation.

Police say officers recovered drugs, a gun and large bundles of money at the scene. □

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California police report almost no racial profiling

By **DON THOMPSON**

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—

California's first-in-the-nation attempt to track racial profiling complaints against police produced numbers so unrealistically small that the board overseeing the tally wants departments to make changes to encourage more people to come forward.

The panel's most recent report found 17 percent of California's law enforcement agencies reported not a single complaint in 2017.

And of 659 profiling complaints that were filed in a state of nearly 40 million people, just 10 were sustained. Three-quarters of the profiling complaints involve race or ethnicity, but they can also include age, gender, religion, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation.

The people who share leadership of the California Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory Board are divided over the seriousness of the problem and whether changes are needed based on the results of the second annual report.

Andrea Guerrero, executive director of the advocacy group Alliance San Diego, doesn't believe the numbers and thinks it might be the result of police protecting their own.

"We know we have a profiling problem in the state," she said.

Her co-chair, Kings County Sheriff David Robinson, disputed that. He said the numbers reflect the real-



In this March 22, 2018, file photo, Anita Ross holds a photo of 22-year-old Stephon Clark, an unarmed black vandalism suspect who was fatally shot by police, as she and other protesters block the entrance to Sacramento City Hall in Sacramento, Calif.

Associated Press

ity that it's "so rare and far between that someone is racist."

Under current standards, people who lodge formal complaints generally must use their name to report concerns that can range from an officer being rude or disrespectful up to false arrests or racially targeted traffic stops. And often they must go to a police station and fill out a form.

Robinson said most people prefer a more informal process that often doesn't show up in official statistics, like having a police supervisor hear the complaint and talk to the officer.

The panel has recommended that local agencies allow anonymous and third-party complaints to shield victims from retaliation, while making it easier to file complaints, including by providing materials in many languages.

There should be follow-ups so complainants don't feel they're being ignored, Guerrero said, and civilian oversight panels with "teeth in them" should oversee complaint investigations. Plumas County sheriff's Deputy Ed Obayashi, an expert on use-of-force policies who teaches other law enforcement personnel around the state, said the racial numbers don't reflect reality, but he discounted any nefarious intent.

In Southern California, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, where Obayashi used to work, reported just one racial profiling complaint in 2017, while the Riverside County Sheriff's Department had seven. About 3.34 million people live in San Diego County, while the population of Riverside County, which includes the cities of Riverside and Palm Springs,

is around 2.42 million.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the United States' largest sheriff's agency, recorded 31.

"There's no way," Obayashi said. "People who see this report are going to say, 'They're covering this up.'"

He and others blamed conservative reporting policies that leave out informal complaints, coupled with "complaint fatigue" by people who are too frightened to complain or believe they'll be ignored.

Proving a complaint is even tougher, he said.

"To sustain a complaint would require the officer to say, 'I stopped that motorist because he was black or Hispanic.' And what officer is going to admit to that?" Obayashi said.

The 7,400-officer California Highway Patrol reported just 24 profiling complaints from nearly 4 million contacts with the public. None was substantiated by the department, which board member Warren Stanley, the CHP's first black commissioner, said shows the professionalism of the agency's personnel.

Morgan Hill Police Chief David Swing, who represents police chiefs on the board, said he isn't surprised by the low reported statewide numbers.

"There are some that may have, or had, a perception that there are more racial or identity profiles being made, but the data that we have doesn't bear that out," Swing said.

In Sacramento, the department reported 18 civilian

complaints in 2017, none of them alleging racial or identity profiling.

"We actually get a lot more than that," acknowledged Sacramento police spokesman Sgt. Vance Chandler. But the department counts only formal complaints that under state law could result in an officer being disciplined, omitting what it calls informal inquiries.

The department plans to provide more accurate information on the number of complaints and their outcome as part of reform efforts, Chandler said.

Betty Williams, president of the NAACP branch in Sacramento, said racial profiling is "undersold and underreported in such a shameless fashion."

The next statewide report in January will for the first time include statistics from California's eight largest police agencies on the perceived race, gender, sexual orientation and other characteristics of motorists during traffic stops.

In December, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department suspended operations of a team of deputies who targeted vehicles on Interstate 5, the main West Coast highway between Mexico and Canada, for drugs and other contraband. The decision came amid accusations of racial profiling after a Los Angeles Times investigation found 69 percent of drivers stopped were Latino and that two-thirds had their vehicles searched, a far higher rate than other racial and ethnic groups. □

Turbulence injures 30 on flight from Istanbul to New York

By VERENA DOBNIK
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Severe turbulence tossed terrified passengers and crew around a Turkish Airlines plane cabin as it passed over Maine on Saturday, with 30 people suffering bumps, bruises, cuts and a broken leg before the flight landed safely at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, officials said. Dozens of ambulances lined up in front of a terminal to quickly treat the injured coming off the flight that left Istanbul for the 10-hour trip. Spokesman Steve Coleman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey told The Associated Press that 28 people were taken to Jamaica Hospital Medical Center in Queens after the plane touched down at 5:35 p.m. Two went to Queens Hospital Medical Center. A flight attendant suffered a broken leg, Coleman said. Turkish Airlines Flight 1 hit the turbulence about 45 minutes before landing at JFK, Coleman said. The crew declared an emergency while the Boeing 777 was still in the air, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. "Nobody announced it or anything like that so we figured out something was wrong," passenger Sead Nikaj told ABC News. "Then

I see people start flying on the plane. Then seeing blood all over. I had one of the ladies next to me, she really fell down from her seat on the floor and all her back was completely bloody, while someone that was working in the airplane, she cracked her leg I think completely." "There was like one or two seconds when it was subtle, but then it really started to pick up," Mehrbakhsh said. "... Just because the drop was so sudden, a lot of people got lifted up and hit their head either on the ceiling or on the side of the plane, and so there were a lot of injuries pretty quickly." The Port Authority spokesman said other airport operations were not affected. Turkish Airlines officials in a statement early Sunday confirmed the flight carrying 326 passengers and 18 crew members "encountered an unusual turbulence about 40 minutes before landing" in New York. The airline said it is "deeply saddened by this unfortunate experience, and closely monitors the health status of injured passengers, and is making resources available to them." It was the second mishap on Saturday involving a plane in the New York metropolitan area. Earlier in the day, Newark Liberty International Air-

port temporarily closed its runways after a flight from Montreal to Fort Lauderdale made an emergency landing with smoke in its cargo hold. The National Weather Service had issued advisories on Saturday warning pilots of expected turbulence. □



In this still image taken from video provided by WNBC-TV News 4 New York, emergency medical personnel tend to an injured passenger from a Turkish Airlines flight at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, Saturday, March 9, 2019.

Associated Press

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Parliament facing Brexit decisions, more drama and deadline

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — After months of Brexit deadlock, this is it: decision time. At least for now.

With Britain scheduled to leave the European Union in less than three weeks, U.K. lawmakers are poised to choose the country's immediate direction from among three starkly different choices: deal, no deal or delay.

A look at what might happen:

DEAL DEJA VU

The House of Commons has a second vote scheduled Tuesday on a deal laying out the terms of Britain's orderly departure from the EU. Prime Minister Theresa May and EU officials agreed to the agree-



Protestors react as they demonstrate in front of the Houses of Parliament in London, Wednesday, March 6, 2019.

Associated Press

ment in December, but U.K. lawmakers voted 432-202 in January to reject it. To get it approved by March 29, the day set for Brexit, May needs to persuade 116 of them to change their minds — a tough task.

Opposition to the deal in Parliament centers on a section that is designed to ensure there are no customs checks or border posts between EU member Ireland and the U.K.'s Northern Ireland. Pro-Brexit lawmakers dislike that the border "backstop" keeps the U.K. entwined with EU trade rules. May has been seeking changes to reassure them the situation would be temporary, but the EU refuses to reopen the withdrawal agreement. Around 100 hard-core Brexit supporters in May's Conservative Party look set to oppose the deal unless the backstop is altered. To offset them, May has courted the opposition Labour Party with promises of money for urban regeneration.

Oliver Patel, a research associate at the European Institute at University College London, says "it's highly unlikely the deal will be passed. The big question is, what will the margin be?" If, against the odds, lawmakers approve the deal, a short delay to Brexit may be needed so Parliament

can translate the agreement's terms into British law. But the U.K. would be on course to leave the EU in the next few months, with a long transition period built in to help people and businesses get used to the new relationship.

May will have delivered on her promise of an orderly Brexit — and snatched an astonishing political victory from the jaws of widely predicted defeat.

DESTINATION NO-DEAL

If the deal is rejected, lawmakers expect to vote Wednesday on whether to abandon efforts to secure an agreement and leave the EU as planned on March 29 without a deal. That idea is backed by a phalanx of pro-Brexit politicians, who say it would cut Britain free of EU rules and red tape, allowing the country to forge an independent global trade policy.

In the short term, there could be gridlock at British ports and shortages of fresh produce. In the long run, the government says a no-deal scenario would leave the economy 6 percent to 9 percent smaller over 15 years than remaining in the EU.

Last month, Parliament passed a non-binding amendment ruling out a

"no-deal" Brexit, so lawmakers are unlikely to go with it now.

DELAY, DELAY, DELAY

If lawmakers reject leaving the EU without an agreement, they have one choice left: seek more time. A vote scheduled for Thursday would decide whether to ask the EU to delay Britain's departure by up to three months.

This is likely to pass, since politicians on both sides of the debate fear time is running out to secure an orderly Brexit by March 29.

An extension requires approval from all 27 remaining EU member countries. They will probably agree, possibly at a March 21-22 summit in Brussels. But they are reluctant to grant a delay that stretches past elections for the EU's legislature, the European Parliament, in late May.

CRISIS DEFERRED

Whatever the U.K. Parliament decides, this week will not bring an end to Britain's Brexit crisis. Both lawmakers and the public remain split between backers of a clean break from the EU and those who favor continuing a close relationship — either through a post-Brexit trade deal or by reversing the decision to leave.

May is unwilling to abandon her hard-won Brexit agreement and might try to put it to Parliament a third time, especially if she loses by a small margin on Tuesday. But some lawmakers want her to have Parliament consider different forms of Brexit to see if there is a majority for any course of action.

Maddy Thimont-Jack, a researcher at the Institute for Government think tank, said this week's votes could force the famously stubborn May to compromise.

"If she loses the vote by quite a significant margin again, it really suggests that what she has done is just not going to fly," Thimont-Jack said. "In which case she will be under a lot of pressure to follow what Parliament wants." □

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Jetliner crashes in Ethiopia, killing 157 from 35 countries

By ELIAS MESERET
YIDNEK KIRUBEL
Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — A jetliner carrying 157 people crashed shortly after takeoff from the Ethiopian capital Sunday, killing everyone aboard and carving a crater into the ground, authorities said. At least 35 nationalities were among the dead. It was not clear what caused the Ethiopian Airlines plane to go down in clear weather. The accident was strikingly similar to last year's crash of a Lion Air jet that plunged into the Java Sea, killing 189 people. Both crashes involved the Boeing 737 Max 8, and both happened minutes after the jets became airborne.

The Ethiopian pilot sent out a distress call and was given clearance to return to the airport, the airline's CEO told reporters. At the crash site, the impact caused the plane to shatter into small pieces. Personal belongings and aircraft parts were strewn across the freshly churned earth. Bulldozers dug into the crater to pull out buried pieces of the jet. Red Cross teams and others searched for human remains. In one photo, teams could be seen loading black plastic bags into trucks. As sunset approached, crews were still searching for the plane's flight-data recorder, the airline's chief operating officer said. Worried families gathered at the flight's destination, the airport in Nairobi, the capital of neighboring Kenya.

Agnes Muilu said he came to pick up his brother. "I just pray that he is safe or he was not on it," he said. Relatives were frustrated by



Rescuers remove body bags from the scene of an Ethiopian Airlines flight that crashed shortly after takeoff at Hejere near Bishoftu, or Debre Zeit, some 50 kilometers (31 miles) south of Addis Ababa, in Ethiopia Sunday, March 10, 2019.

the lack of word on loved ones.

"Why are they taking us round and round. It is all over the news that the plane crashed," said Edwin Ong'undi, who was waiting for his sister. "All we are asking for is information to know about their fate."

The accident is likely to renew questions about the 737 Max, the newest version of Boeing's popular single-aisle airliner.

Indonesian investigators have not determined a cause for the October crash, but days after the accident Boeing sent a notice to airlines that faulty information from a sensor could cause the plane to automatically point the nose down. The notice reminded pilots of the procedure for handling such a situation.

The Lion Air cockpit data recorder showed that the jet's airspeed indicator had malfunctioned on its last four flights, though the airline initially said problems with the aircraft had been

fixed before it left the Indonesian capital of Jakarta. Safety experts cautioned against drawing too many comparisons between the two crashes until more is known about Sunday's disaster. The Ethiopian Airlines CEO "stated there were no defects prior to the flight, so it is hard to see any parallels with the Lion Air crash yet," said Harro Ranter, founder of the Aviation Safety Network, which compiles information about accidents worldwide.

The airline published a photo showing its CEO standing in the wreckage.

The Ethiopian plane was new, having been delivered to the airline in November.

State-owned Ethiopian Airlines is widely considered the best-managed airline in Africa and calls itself Africa's largest carrier. It has ambitions of becoming the gateway to the continent and is known as an early buyer of new aircraft.

"Ethiopian Airlines is one of the safest airlines in the

pal, Israel, India and Somalia. Several countries lost more than five citizens.

Some of those aboard were thought to be traveling to a major United Nations environmental meeting scheduled to start Monday in Nairobi.

The plane crashed six minutes after departing, plowing into the ground at Hejere near Bishoftu, or Debre Zeit, some 50 kilometers (31 miles) south of Addis Ababa, at 8:44 a.m.

The jetliner showed unstable vertical speed after takeoff, air traffic monitor Flightradar 24 said in a Twitter post.

The Addis Ababa-Nairobi route links East Africa's two largest economic powers and is popular with tourists making their way to safaris and other destinations. Sunburned travelers and tour groups crowd the Addis Ababa airport's waiting areas, along with businessmen from China and elsewhere.

The jet's last maintenance was on Feb. 4, and it had flown just 1,200 hours. The pilot was a senior aviator, joining the airline in 2010, the CEO said. □

Associated Press

world. At this stage we cannot rule out anything," CEO Tewolde Gebremariam said.

Ethiopian Airlines issued a list showing 35 nationalities among the dead, including 32 Kenyans and 18 Canadians. The list reflected a broad range of backgrounds, with passengers from China, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Ne-

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Head of UN Women: Technology revolution must benefit women

By **EDITH M. LEDERER**
Associated Press
UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The head of the U.N. women's agency is calling for the revolution in technology to be used to benefit the world's poor, and especially women, who will not achieve gender equality without "the giant leap that 21st century innovations can bring." Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka said in an interview and a speech ahead of the Commission on the Status of Women's annual meeting starting Monday that sanitation, clean water, good roads, affordable internet



In this Friday, March 8, 2019 photo provided by the United Nations, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, third from right, executive director of UN Women, speaks at the United Nations Observance of International Women's Day at the United Nations headquarters. Associated Press

good news is that for many of the problems we have today there are solutions that we know about." She pointed to affordable internet service and the use of "mobile money" through mobile phones that is changing the lives of women in Kenya in the same way that microcredit — small loans — has enabled hundreds of thousands of women in developing countries to start businesses. In some countries, "mobile money" can be used to pay for the delivery of water or buying energy, "so it's not a luxury to have that kind of infrastructure," Mlambo-Ngcuka said. "It's a game-changer. It changes for better the GDP of countries." She noted that 80 percent of women in low-income and middle-income countries own mobile phones and "it would be a historic mistake to fail to make deliberate use of these technologies to advance gender equality." Mlambo-Ngcuka said improving infrastructure to provide clean water means that girls don't have to walk miles to get water from a river and boil it. In her native South Africa, she said, "providing free water, electricity and social protection for the poor has meant more children go to school and stay in school, and parents are able to have a decent life and reduce malnutrition." In Rwanda, Mlambo-Ngcuka said, drones are being used to deliver medicine to rural areas, and in West Africa, drones are being used to oversee fields and sprinkle organic material

to kill pests. And she said blockchain technology — storing digital information about transactions in a public database — can be used to deliver services to displaced people. But Mlambo-Ngcuka said, "The bad news is that even though there are solutions, they are not being taken into account fully, even where it reduces the cost." She said the biggest challenge in implementing the U.N. goal of achieving gender equality by 2030 is the need to accelerate the pace and scale-up action. Infrastructure is one of the barriers, which she said is why it is a key focus of this year's two-week meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women. The debate on the commission's final document is still underway, and Mlambo-Ngcuka said among the issues still being discussed are the affordability of infrastructure projects and how can they be financed, and the transfer of technology so that those in relatively agrarian countries can leapfrog to the internet era. "Some countries think water is more important than broadband" high-speed internet access, "but you actually need both," she said. When it comes to infrastructure for health care, Mlambo-Ngcuka said, some countries "don't want it to benefit sexual and reproductive rights," which are part of the 1995 platform for action to achieve gender equality adopted by the world's nations at the U.N. women's conference in Beijing. □

service and use of mobile phones to transfer money and pay bills are critical to changing women's lives. "We have made progress toward gender equality. We have more women in significant roles, but we're still leaving many, many more women behind," the executive director of UN Women said. "Sometimes we even lose the gains that we've already made. And that is why we are emphasizing the importance of innovation and technology." Mlambo-Ngcuka stressed that "the 21st century is about large ideas, scale and speed." If technology and innovation aren't used to promote equality for women from agriculture and education to finance and health, she said, the "Fourth Industrial Revolution" of rapid technological change will happen "and the women will still be living in the previous industrial revolution, which also did not work for them very well." Mlambo-Ngcuka said, "The

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North Korea goes to polls to rubber-stamp parliament lineup

By ERIC TALMADGE

Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — Millions of North Korean voters, including leader Kim Jong Un, went to the polls on Sunday to elect a new lineup of roughly 700 members for the next session of the national legislature, though the vote was more of an endorsement than a competitive contest.

Voters were presented with just one state-sanctioned candidate per seat and cast their ballots not to select but rather to show their approval or, at least theoretically, disapproval of that candidate.

The elections, last held in 2014, are for the entire Supreme People's Assembly, which on paper is the highest organ of power in North Korea. Its delegates come from all over the country and all walks of life. The candidates are selected by the ruling Korean Workers' Party and a couple of



An electoral worker shows a ballot during the election at a polling station in Pyongyang, North Korea, Sunday, March 10, 2019.

other smaller coalition parties that have seats in the assembly.

Kim, fresh off his trip to Hanoi for his second summit with President Donald Trump, is a member of the assembly, though his power rests in his complete control over the ruling party, government and military. State media showed footage of him casting his vote at a polling center at Pyongyang's Kim

Chaek University of Technology.

As was the custom in the Soviet Union and other communist countries, turnout is generally reported at 99 percent or higher. Voting is generally regarded as a duty and responsibility. Simply staying at home is not an option.

"I'm very proud to be voting for the first time," said 19-year-old university stu-

dent Kim Ju Gyong, who cast her vote Sunday morning at the Pyongyang Primary School No. 4 polling station. "I feel happy to be a citizen and I want to do my best for the future of my country." Under North Korean law, citizens can vote from the age of 17.

Voting began at around 10 a.m. depending on the location and continued until late evening. Voters show election officials their ID cards to receive their ballot with the sole candidate's name on it, which they cast in a private booth. If they approve, they simply put the ballot in the box. If they don't approve, they cross the name out in put it in the same box.

But one official told The Associated Press that basically never happens.

"No one votes against the candidate," said Jin Ki Chol, the chairman of an election committee supervising a polling station at a cable factory in central

Pyongyang.

Election days have a festive mood. Bands play music as voters wait in line, and there is group dancing for those who have already finished. "The election will strikingly manifest the fixed will of our people to firmly trust and uphold to the last Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un despite storm and stress," the ruling party's official daily said in a commentary Sunday.

Officials at two polling stations visited by the AP said they were not sure of the exact number this year, or when the results would be announced. Five years ago, 687 deputies were elected and the results despite being a foregone conclusion were announced two days after the vote.

The elections are decidedly not intended to foster policy debates among the general populace or for the voters to change the nation's course from the bottom up. □

China's Yi: Envoys discussed avoiding currency as trade tool



China's Central Bank Governor Yi Gang gestures as he speaks during a press conference on the sideline of the National People's Congress at the media center in Beijing, Sunday, March 10, 2019.

Associated Press

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — American

and Chinese envoys discussed sticking to promises

to avoid "competitive devaluation" to boost exports during negotiations aimed at ending a tariff war, China's central bank governor said Sunday.

Yi Gang gave no indication the two sides reached any agreements beyond previous commitments made at meetings of the Group of 20 major economies. He spoke at a news conference during the annual meeting of China's ceremonial legislature.

Yi took part in the latest round of talks in Washington, along with China's economy czar, Vice Premier Liu He, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Stephen Mnuchin.

"We discussed that both sides should abide by the commitments made at previous G20 summits, such as refraining from competitive devaluation and using exchange rates for competitive purposes," Yi said. Negotiators also discussed "how to respect the right of each other's monetary authority in deciding its own monetary policy," said Yi. He said they discussed the importance of "the principle of market-determined exchange rate regime."

U.S. and Chinese officials say the talks on ending the conflict over Beijing's technology ambitions are making progress but no formal agreements or details of negotiations have been re-

leased. The complaint that Beijing depresses the value of its tightly controlled yuan to boost exports is one of a series of chronic irritants in the world's biggest trading relationship.

Washington has avoided labeling China a currency manipulator, which would trigger legal penalties.

But U.S. officials have pressed Beijing to allow the yuan to fluctuate more widely in response to market forces.

The Trump administration also is pressing Beijing for changes in industrial policy and the status of state-owned industry and a commitment to end cyberspying to obtain trade secrets. □

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Nicaragua reveals peace talks agenda, doesn't budge on vote

By **GABRIELA SELSER**
Associated Press

MANAGUA, Nicaragua

(AP) — Nicaragua's government announced its agenda Saturday for talks on resolving a nearly year-old political standoff, but did not give any ground on a key opposition demand — early elections.

A Foreign Ministry statement spelled out several points including the strengthening of electoral institutions; justice and reparations; a review and release of some imprisoned protesters; and negotiations about the suspension of international sanctions. It said the government is "committed to the strengthening of democracy and respect for the constitutional order of Nicaragua," but pointedly noted that the date for the next general election is "established" for 2021.

Opponents of President



In this Sept. 5, 2018 file photo, the President of Nicaragua Daniel Ortega and his wife and Vice-President Rosario Murillo preside a rally in Managua, Nicaragua.

Associated Press

Daniel Ortega demanded he leave office and allow an early, fair vote, during widespread protests last year that prompted a government crackdown. At least 325 people died in the unrest, according to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

On the 770 people the opposition considers political prisoners, the government said it would consider freeing both those awaiting judgment and others already convicted. But it added that it would "review their case files, a situation that does not imply

impunity." Talks between Ortega representatives and the opposition group Civic Alliance resumed Feb. 27, and a so-called roadmap for the negotiations was agreed upon last week. The opposition has also called for the restoration of freedom of expression guarantees after a crackdown on independent media and a de facto ban on anti-government protests. The government statement came a day after Roman Catholic bishops said they were declining to participate in the negotiations as observers.

The Civic Alliance said following the church's announcement that it would reflect and "reconsider" whether to continue negotiating with the government.

Jose Pallais, a member of the opposition delegation, said it would continue to

assess the situation over the weekend and called on the government to make "overwhelming gestures to give legitimacy and recognition to the process of negotiation." "The government came out and published its agenda because the bishops' refusal to participate in the dialogue puts at risk its strategy of buying time, and it wants to avoid having the Civic Alliance walk away from the negotiation," said Monica Baltodano, a former commander in Ortega's Sandinista movement who switched to the opposition 20 years ago. Also Saturday, the Organization of American States said it had designated a special envoy to Nicaragua who, "at the request of the government," will meet on Monday with delegates to the talks to discuss possible OAS participation. □

Venezuelan hospitals struggle to tend patients without power

By **CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA**
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Many parts of Venezuela remained without power and communications on Sunday after several days of the country's worst blackouts, which forced some hospitals to treat patients without electricity and compounded an economic and political crisis.

Power returned to some areas as engineers sought to restore service, but frustration mounted among people already struggling with hyperinflation as well as shortages of food and medicine. Witnesses reported overnight protests in a few Caracas neighborhoods and the remains of makeshift barricades and burned debris were seen at some intersections.



A supporter of Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro sings a song about the late President Hugo Chavez as she holds an image depicting him during a government rally in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, March 9, 2019.

Associated Press

Some hospitals have cared for their most critically ill patients with the help of generators, but many have had to operate without power since the blackouts started Thursday afternoon, endangering vulnerable

patients who rely on oxygen concentrators, dialysis machines and other equipment. The Venezuelan government has not commented on the impact of blackouts on the sick, but Julio Castro, a doctor who

supports opposition leader Juan Guaido, said a hospital in the city of Maturin reported 15 deaths linked to outages. Castro, who joined Guaido on Sunday at a news conference addressing the energy crisis, noted that Venezuela annually designates March 10 as a day to honor the medical profession. Guaido, the leader of the National Assembly, said it was difficult to assess the impact of power cuts on the sick because of an alleged government cover-up.

He declared himself interim president in late January, saying Maduro is an illegitimate leader and should resign so elections can be held. Maduro has described Guaido as a "clown and puppet" in a U.S.-backed plot to over-

throw his government. In Caracas, Alexis Reynoso, 46, said he left his home in the Venezuelan capital on Sunday morning to try to buy water and food, but most shops were closed. He said those that were open only accepted cash, but he didn't have enough because the bank only allows small withdrawals and debit card payments aren't possible because of the outage.

The government and opposition accuse each other of being responsible for the infrastructure breakdown. Maduro on Sunday tweeted that "multiple cyberattacks" caused the blackouts and disrupted efforts to fix the national grid. He says he hopes power can be restored in coming hours. □

LOCAL



The Goldmine Ranch goes Hall of Fame

ORANJESTAD — We have an important news to share today. This year once more we were recognized by Tripadvisor with the Certificate of Excellence for the year 2018. What makes this year even more special is the addition to the Hall of Fame. After receiving the Certificate of Excellence for 7 consecutive years, we are now in the Hall of Fame as well.

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thank Tripadvisor for providing an important platform that brings us closer to guests all over the world. Without this platform it would be difficult to learn

about your experiences. And also for others to learn about everything that Aruba has to offer. Thank you for putting us out there. Also, as a local and fam-

ily run stable we depend highly on direct bookings. We compete against larger chains, corporations, boycotts from hotels, and a large number of activity providers. But against all odds, we are still here.

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For today's newspaper we received a great picture

from a group of friends called The Fat Bastards. They wrote:

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Frankie Federicci, Vic LeBlanc, Irv Kuber, Sammy Furnaro, Larry DeWitt, Jim Swartz, Paul Autschuler, Tony Pizzi, Ron Rodríguez

This brotherhood has been coming to Aruba and staying at Marriott Resorts for 20 consecutive years. They were founded by two gentlemen, James Cacciabeve and Anthony Racioppi. The group was founded to celebrate the camaraderie of men and their families. Moreover, to enjoy and appreciate the beauty of earth's gift, Aruba! Let's preserve our planet!!!!

More hotel rooms in Aruba! Friend or Foe?



By Jan van Nes

ORANJESTAD — With the recent announcement of the development of an All Inclusive 900 rooms resort at San Nicolas (SN), I have taken some time to reflect what this development would signify for the other side of the island and Aruba. In this context we should be aware that there are another 3000 additional hotel rooms in the pipe-line which may materialize. San Nicolas has become a bit of a ghost town now that the refinery is closed and it is not my intention to deny tourism development at the other side of the island, yet what would this mean for Aruba's quality of life? There are multiple facts in that lead me to believe that this mega development is not a good idea!

Many of these motives not to enter another mega development are well known: a report of the Central Bank of Aruba, the density of the population per square kilometer (one of the highest in the world), our infra-structure which can not carry another major influx of foreign labor. Classes exceeding 30 students, lack of schools, traffic, foreign exchange flight of capital and the not-so-impressive spin-off as a result of this development. All of this together in my modest opinion do not justify this major development in a beautiful nature area that would go lost. Other considerations:

1. The investment is not impressive using the rule of thumb of the average investment per developed room: \$1 in ADR per \$1000 in value per room. The investment of \$120,000,000 (All Inclusive) could hardly be compared to a high end/ low impact project. Consequently, I doubt if it would bring more restaurants to establish in SN, let alone the restaurants in SN to see many customers based on the All-Inclusive component.
2. A few years ago, economist Dr. Arjen Alberts published his report on the development of tourism in St. Maarten and Aruba. His conclu-

sions:" The fact that each year more tourists are coming to Aruba does not signify that the prosperity is on the rise". To the contrary, the average prosperity has been the same during the last 25 years.

3. The cake indeed grew but was to be divided in more slices! According to Alberts: "It is even possible that our prosperity may even be reduced in future or stays the same. The bottle neck is the lack of space. The island is filling up. We ran hard but did not advance!"
4. Dr. Alberts emphasized that we should be stressing on the experience of the tourist: "Less tourists who spend more".
5. In 2003/04 Professor Sam Cole and Victoria Razak were engaged in a study for the island "Framework for Sustainable Tourism for Aruba". The study stresses the importance of small and boutique development divided over all districts of Aruba. He study has been ignored by every Government these past 15 years. Each consecutive government preferred More is Better instead Less is More!

6. It is ironic that the local population did take Cole's report to heart: vacation homes mushroomed all over the island. Apartment and residences are offered at different plat forms (not always cheap) like HomeAway, vrbo.com and airbandb.

7. This development does offer the low impact Cole suggested and does offer employment to housekeeping, pool maintenance, general and of course the utilities companies. Breckenridge in Colorado thrives on vacation homes and through a simple registration the local administration receives her fair share in taxes. Tourists staying at vacation homes a few years ago already compassed about 30% of total accommodations. This does give us a clear indication that today's tourist is looking for other accommodations and may not be interested in another mega development. Did we ask them?

8. Aruba would benefit in consolidating and improving her product. Alberts, Cole and Razak already indicated: LESS TOURISTS SPENDING MORE! Studies within the Aruba Tourism Authority are clear and indicate that we dropped in the (perception) of value for money. Developing 90 high end/ low impact rooms each year would pay off, yet 900 rooms in one development does not reflect great vision! Aruba counts with several development among others: Acqua (500 rooms), Embassy Suites (330 kamers), St. Regis (250), the Airport Hotel, and several condos and with those openings this and next year we could pause, take inventory, prepare for the labor influx and take it from there. Other questions:

1. Whom will replace the staff, the old loyal local guard, that soon will retire?
2. How interested is the younger local generation in the functions that soon will be required in substantial quantities: dishwasher, bus-boy and waiter?
3. Despite the unemployment among our younger population, the industry is currently experiencing shortages of labor. The younger generation is not highly motivated to work evenings, weekend and holidays. Current and future developments would only put pressure on the limited availability to fill the many line functions the industry is requiring.

Continued on Page 15



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More hotel rooms in Aruba! Friend or Foe?

Continued from Page 14

4. Mention has been made of starting educational programs. How will we stimulate students and graduates to enter a labor market that for the grand majority demands working evenings, weekends and holidays?

5. How many jobs would this generate for SN and Aruba?

6. What would the spin-off be of more stores establishing in SN?

Unfortunately, there has been no dialogue with the social partners until this project was presented. In this light I envy Switzerland that thru its democratic system conducts referendums 4 times a year. It seems that after our vote is cast in the elections our opinion ceases to exist. Consequently, this project came as a total surprise and San Nicolas IMHO deserves better! SN would benefit of boutique



projects like Paradera Park, Boardwalk Hotel, Bucuti/Tara, Manchebo, Amsterdam Manor and Ocean Z just to name a few. Savaneta for example already counts a few boutique developments where the visitors have direct contact

with the owner and employees and mother nature. This week I spoke to Samia who changed Palm Beach for Savaneta. Her reaction: "What is wrong with these people"? It is proper to remark that Samia is a steady guest at Baby and

Rodgers Beach and several restaurants in the SN area. The consequences of the hotel and condo development over the last 15 years are noticeable for every one visiting and living on this island. Traffic, school classes and our experienc-

es are not comparable to ours or our parents quality of life. I envision my grandson asking me one day, "Opa, tell me about the natural pool" and I would answer, "yes, once it was a great please to visit but now it is part of a hotel development". And, "Opa tell me about Baby and Rodgers Beach". And what are we going to answer? That we watched from the side lines when this development was presented...and that we thrustured our political leaders to know better and have good intentions! I could be wrong, reason I am asking my former colleagues of the Aruba Tourism Authority Michael Kuiperi, Rory Arends, Remigio Wever, Mirto Granadillo, Charlie Ybarra, en Myrna Jansen to share their opinion with us. □

Jan van Nes
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Urgency (UCA) or Emergency (ED)? How to choose where to go for medical attention



Dr. Carlos Yagua Jr. and Dr. Carlos Yagua Sr., son and father

ORANJESTAD — When on vacation and an unexpected health mishap arise, many people's first reaction is to head to an emergency room. But when those illnesses and injuries aren't true emergencies, not knowing the best option for care can end up costing both time and money.

So how can you know where to go when medical attention is needed?

Urgent Care Aruba (UCA) or Emergency Department?

UCA at the Noord Medical Center provide a way to keep up with patients' daily healthcare needs, serving as a vital link between the emergency room and primary care physicians.

Dr. Carlos Yagua Velasquez, *Managing Director of UCA* explains that they, as a family of nine (9) physicians, started the development of UCA in 2013 because it provides patients with an alternative to the emergency room, which can be too costly and time-consuming for situations like common illnesses and minor injuries. He states that "While the ED at the Dr. Horacio Oduber is best equipped to handle life-threatening illnesses and injuries, it's important that patients are aware that there are more affordable options available for less serious situations."

Due to shorter wait times – they offer a wait time of 30 minutes or less – and much lower prices, as a more convenient and affordable option than, but not a substitute for, an emergency room. To help the local community and their visitors from abroad to save money, Urgent Care Aruba known as UCA, is gathering resources to educate and promote on the best healthcare options.



When care is needed for true emergency situations, such as heart attacks, strokes, major bleeding or severe burns, it's vital to go to the ED at the Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital immediately.

Financial Savings

When patients visit an emergency room for a non-emergency, they risk incurring a substantial financial loss. Emergency rooms are more expensive for treatment of non-life-threatening situations, while UCA at the Noord Medical Center charges an average of 1/3 of the cost.

Plus, a large percentage of all emergency room visits could take place at UCA, which would save consumers. Additionally, UCA accepts certain travel insurance plans, with either full coverage, co-pays, or they will provide you with

all pertinent documentation for reimbursement as a self-pay visit.

Understanding the options

"With the availability of a facility, such as UCA, patients need to take care to understand their options," Dr. Carlos Yagua Jr said. "The emergency room prices can cause sticker shock for patients who aren't aware of the distinction."

Residents and visitors from abroad should be sure to confirm the type of facility they're visiting, as treatment at the ER may cost more than UCA at the Noord Medical Center. □

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 +297-5860448
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 www.urgentcare.aw



**Urgent
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 Aruba**



Hotel Hustle

Column by: Shanella Pantophlet

March Madness

ORANJESTAD — March has only just begun but the first few months of this year have been extraordinarily busy in the resort world. If you've ever been on a roller coaster with tunnels, lights and spins before you shoot out on the other side into daylight only to be dropped over the edge for one last thrill before the right ends. If so then that's exactly how the past few months have felt. I believe that sums up high season for most resorts around the Island. We've all been so busy that we are just trying to figure out which side is up.

Two contributors to this current madness has been Aruba's 65th Carnival celebration, which was probably the biggest one we've had yet. I felt bad for anyone having to travel back home during parade days. President's week also fell combined in with this longer Carnival season so our island was packed to the gills. With St. Patrick's Day, Aruba day and Easter still to come it will still be at least a month before we get out of the tunnel.



Of course beyond the good time we've all been having, our resort along with other resorts on the island have also been undergoing extensive renovations both on the exterior and interior. If there is one thing nobody wants to deal with during their time to relax is construction noise and our members were very vocal about it during one particularly busy week. There were a lot of questions of "why are you doing this work during the busiest season of the year?" The amount of times those questions came up felt like an attack on our efforts for improvement. We've spent countless meetings with our General Manager and Chief Engineer, explaining to our owners the importance of the work we are doing.

I truly understand where our Members and Guests are coming from, nobody wants to be inconvenienced from their relaxation. However there seems to be a misconception that we are purposefully scheduling all the work to coincide when the hotel is at capacity. The thing to take into consideration however that is Aruba is a small island with a limited amount of contractors/specialists in a particular area, these people are in high demand so when we need to get work done a lot of it depends on their availability. We would love to schedule them for a quieter time, but this may mean a safety issue could go unaddressed for months until their next availability.

We will always choose the safety of our staff, members and guests over a few grumbling of malcontent. A little short term pain for long term benefit is very much worth it to us. I know our Chief Engineer felt pretty frustrated after one particularly contentious meeting, but many of our members came round to speak to him after and expressed their understanding of the reason why work was being done at that particular moment. As the adage goes, no pain no gain.

Construction projects both big and small will continue at many places on the island over the coming years both during high and low season and management will continue to take the hits from those unhappy about it. Because we know at the end of the day we'll all be better for it. □



Aruban born and bred Shanella Pantophlet is passionate about tourism. That is the world she studied and works in, so we might as well call her a specialist. Luckily for Aruba Today Shanella also loves to write. And together with the fact that the majority of our readers are tourists, we found ourselves a perfect combination for a column: Hotel Hustle.

SPORTS



Third placed Marcel Hirscher of Austria celebrates on the podium of an Alpine Skiing World Cup men's slalom, in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia, Sunday, March 10, 2019.

Associated Press

Hirscher secures overall title as Zenhausern wins slalom

KRANJSKA GORA, Slovenia (AP) — After wrapping up his eighth consecutive men's World Cup overall title on Sunday, Marcel Hirscher hinted that there might not be a ninth.

The Austrian considered calling it a career after competing in two more races at next week's World Cup Finals in Andorra.

"It would hurt but it is imaginable," said Hirscher, who turned 30 last week.

Hirscher got married in the offseason last year and became a father shortly before the season started in October.

"We have to talk about those things in the summer. Family is the priority, so it's the question how much longer I can keep doing both in a sensible way," he said about combining family and professional sports.

Continued on Page 22

HILLTOPPER



Molinari finishes with an impressive 64 to win Arnold Palmer Invitational

Francesco Molinari, of Italy, celebrates after sinking a putt for birdie on the 18th green during the final round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament Sunday, March 10, 2019, in Orlando, Fla. Molinari won the tournament.

Associated Press
Page 21

Panthers start fast, rout Red Wings 6-1

By **BILL WHITEHEAD**

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Aleksander Barkov reached 30 goals for the first time in his career, helping the Florida Panthers rout the Detroit Red Wings 6-1 on Sunday. Josh Brown and Dryden Hunt each scored their first NHL goal as Florida earned its second straight win since a costly six-game slide. Jonathan Huberdeau had a goal and an assist, and Jamie McGinn and Frank Vatrano also scored. Making his third NHL start, Sam Montembeault stopped 19 shots as the Panthers finished their season series against the Red Wings with a 3-0-1 record.

The 23-year-old Barkov had at least 21 goals in each of the previous three seasons, but he had never got to 30 until he made it 6-1 7:44 into the third period. He also picked up his 47th assist when Huberdeau scored the first of Florida's three third-period goals. Barkov has 24 points in his last 13 games. It was the 400th NHL game for Florida's captain, who had a club-record five assists Friday against Minnesota. Thomas Vanek had a power-play goal for Detroit, which dropped to 1-7-3 in its past 11 games. Jimmy Howard had 37 saves. The Panthers scored twice in their first nine shots during

an impressive first period. Troy Brouwer held the puck on a rush, skated in backward below the goal line and fired a slick pass back to Brown, trailing in the high slot. The defenseman then beat Howard on the glove side at 6:42. McGinn scored just 13 seconds into a power play when he shoved in a rebound of Aaron Ekblad's blast from the left circle for his third goal at 9:22. Vatrano kept a puck alive in a board battle in the second period, and Mike Hoffman slid a pass around to Ekblad, who fired a shot that Vatrano deflected in for his 21st goal and first in 12 games.



Florida Panthers defenseman Josh Brown center, celebrates his first NHL goal with left wing Dryden Hunt (73) and center Henrik Borgstrom (95) during the first period of an NHL hockey game against the Detroit Red Wings, Sunday, March 10, 2019 in Sunrise, Fla.

Associated Press

Vanek cut the deficit to 3-1 with his 14th goal at 12:24, converting a one-timer from the left circle off a pass from Frans Nielsen. Opening the third period on the power play, Florida

went up 4-1 when Evgenii Dadonov threaded a pass on Huberdeau's 22nd goal, and Hunt made it 5-1 when he scored off a clever pass from Riley Sheahan at 2:51. □

Hall of Famer Harry Howell, Rangers' games leader, dies

NEW YORK (AP) — Harry Howell, the Hall of Fame defenseman who played the most games in New York Rangers' history, has died. He was 86.

Howell died Saturday night. He had been living at an assisted care facility near his hometown of Hamilton, Ontario.

A seven-time All-Star, Howell played 1,160 games for the Rangers from 1952-69 and had his No. 3 retired by the team.

"One of the most iconic players in franchise history, Harry's Hall of Fame accomplishments on the ice were exceeded only by the tremendous gentleman he was off the ice," Rangers President Glen Sather said in a statement. "I was privileged to have worked with Harry for over a decade in both Edmonton and New York and treasure our memories together."

Howell also played in the NHL for the Oakland/California Golden Seals and Los Angeles before finishing in the World Hockey Association with single seasons with New York/New Jersey, San Diego and Calgary.

Known for his smart, steady play, "Harry the Horse" won the Norris Trophy as the league's top defenseman in 1966-67. He finished with 94 goals and 324 assists in the NHL and was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1979. He had seven goals and 36 assists in 170 games in the WHA.

Howell was a player-coach with New York-New Jersey and San Diego in the WHA and had an 11-game stint behind the bench in the NHL with the Minnesota North Stars. He also scouted for Edmonton.

"The National Hockey League mourns the passing of legendary defenseman, consummate professional, and Hockey Hall of Famer Harry Howell," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said in a statement.

Howell helped the Guelph Biltmores win the 1952 Memorial Cup junior championship.

The NHL said Howell's wife, Marilyn, died last month. □

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Detroit Pistons forward Blake Griffin (23) drives as Chicago Bulls center Robin Lopez (42) defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, March 10, 2019, in Detroit.

By **DAVE HOGG**
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — The Detroit Pistons are playing one of the biggest games of their season on Monday in Brooklyn.

That's why they were happy to get Sunday's game out of the way as quickly as possible.

Playing at noon on the day

after daylight saving time went into effect, the Pistons scored 42 third-quarter points en route to a 131-107 rout of the Chicago Bulls and their fifth straight win.

Detroit finished the quarter with a 103-80 lead, good enough to let coach Dwane Casey rest Blake Griffin, Andre Drummond and Reggie Jackson rest

Associated Press

Griffin scores 28, Pistons top Bulls for 5th straight win

for the entire fourth quarter. Detroit has won 12 of 14 to take a half-game lead over the Nets for the sixth seed in the Eastern Conference.

"That was huge, because we're playing in Brooklyn tomorrow and then we go to Miami," Casey said. "We're not in a position to use what they are calling load management to give our players a night off, so being able to sit them in the fourth is a bonus."

Griffin (17 points), Drummond (nine) and Jackson (eight) combined for 34 of Detroit's 42 points in the third. The Pistons outscored the Bulls by 17 points, hitting 57.7 percent of their shots including 6 of 12 on 3-pointers.

"We got into a good rhythm and we were hitting shots," Drummond said. "We were making them make mistakes, because they were trying to blitz us and we were swinging the ball and taking the best shots possible." Griffin finished with 28 points in 27 minutes.

"I've said it over and over again during these 14 games," Griffin said. "We're playing basketball the right way. We're making extra passes and we're trusting each other. If you do that, you'll eventually get hot." Jackson scored 21 points for Detroit and Andre Drummond added 16 points and 15 rebounds. Drummond has recorded double-doubles in 18 straight games,

matching his career high and one short of Bob Lanier's franchise record.

The Bulls have lost four of five, including twice to Detroit in three days.

Chicago played without Zach LaVine, who missed the game with a right patellar tendon strain. Wayne Selden led the Bulls with 18 points while Otto Porter Jr. and Lauri Markkanen scored 17 each.

"We played a good first half, but the second half wasn't so good," Porter said. "They were making shots and they are a play-off team. You have to expect them to get it going offensively, and we had to come out better for the second half."

The Pistons hit 10 of 16 first-half 3-pointers (62.5 percent) to take a 61-55 lead. Jackson, who had missed pregame warmups to get treatment on an injured thumb had 13 points in the half, while Porter had 12.

Detroit started the second half with an 11-2 run, including seven points from Griffin, to move the lead to 15 points. Chicago never seriously threatened to get back into the game.

"Detroit's the kind of team we need to learn from," Bulls coach Jim Boylen said. "They've got a couple powerful guys in Griffin and Drummond, they've got some good role players and they've developed maturity. They were down 20 in Minnesota and won and they were down 20 to us the other night and won. "That's a good example of who we can be and what we need to learn," he said.

TIP-INS
Bulls: With the noon start time, the switch to daylight saving time and the Bulls changing time zones, the start was at the equivalent of 10 am for them. . The Bulls only dressed 10 players.

Pistons: Detroit had a season-high 34 assists. ... Rookie Bruce Brown missed the game with a sprained right ankle and was replaced in the starting lineup by Glenn Robinson III. □

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Molinari charges to a 64 to win at Arnie's place

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Francesco Molinari had seen so many clutch birdie putts on the 18th green at Bay Hill, most of them by Tiger Woods in the final group, usually with Arnold Palmer standing next to the green expecting like everyone else for them go in. It was Molinari's turn Sunday in the Arnold Palmer Invitational, with a few big differences.

This putt was from 45 feet, longer than anything Woods ever made. And while it capped off an 8-under 64 and eventually gave Molinari a two-shot victory, the British Open champion had to wait nearly two hours to see if his score would hold up.

One more difference.

"I was the first to make it with the flag in," Molinari said with a big smile, alluding to a new rule that allows the flag stick to stay in the cup with putts on the green.

All that mattered was that it dropped, capping off a five-shot rally with a final round no one imagined on a fast Bay Hill course with putting surfaces that looked closer to white than green, making it difficult for anyone to get it close to the hole.

"He's obviously holed a lot of putts to do that because you can't get close to these pins," Matt Fitzpatrick, the 54-hole leader, said after a 71 to finish second. "There's no way he's knocked it to 6 feet on every hole. But he played very, very well to shoot that, and hat's off to him."

Fitzpatrick managed only two birdies, the same number as Rory McIlroy (72), who played in the final group for the third time in five starts this year without



Sam Saunders, right, Arnold Palmer's grandson, helps Francesco Molinari, of Italy, put on a tournament sweater after winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament Sunday, March 10, 2019, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

winning. McIlroy's downfall was the par 5s — for his second shots, he had 5-iron, 3-iron, 4-iron and wedge into the green. He played the four par 5s in 1 under.

"I'm playing well," McIlroy said after a tie for sixth, his worst finish this year. "My Sundays haven't been what I would have liked, but I'm putting myself in that position. So good golf is good golf."

Molinari delivered the highest quality on a day that required nothing less. His five-shot comeback was the largest at Bay Hill since Woods in 2009, which he won with a birdie from 15 feet on the 18th hole. He played the final 28 holes on this fiery course without a bogey.

Only three of his eight bird-

ie putts were inside 10 feet. Along with the 45-footer at the end, he holed a 20-foot birdie putt to start his round, an 18-footer that gave him the lead for the first time and he chipped in from 10 yards off the green at No. 8.

And he ended it with a charge that would have made Arnie proud, and with the putt that has become familiar.

"Coming from Italy, we weren't exposed to that much golf," Molinari said. "Obviously, Arnie was such a global icon, and this tournament was one that we watched, my brother and myself, at home many times — watching Tiger making that putt on 18. So it's still a bit unreal to think that I've done kind of the

same today." Molinari finished at 12-under 276, his fourth victory in his last 17 starts over nine months.

Perhaps it was only fitting that the claret jug was at Bay Hill, which served as part of the Open Qualifying Series. Sung Kang also had a big putt on the 18th hole, this one from 12 feet for par that sewed up the third and final spot offered for the British Open at Royal Portrush this summer.

The other two spots went to Sungjae Im, the 20-year-old South Korean who closed with a 68 and tied for third; and Honda Classic winner Keith Mitchell, who made eight birdies in his final round of 66 to tie for sixth. Tommy Fleetwood, who shared the 36-hole lead at Bay Hill, recovered from a

76 that knocked him out of contention by closing with a 68 to join Im at 9-under 279 along with Rafa Cabrera Bello (69).

"I was just trying to hit good shots, give myself chances," Molinari said. "I knew it was not going to be easy. The course was firm and fast yesterday and I knew it wasn't going to be easy for the guys in the lead, so I thought there was an outside chance. And yeah, just started making putts, one of my best putting rounds ever." Molinari pointed to the first of his last four victories for sparking his turnaround. He played in the final round of the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth tied with McIlroy, closed with a 68 and won by two. □



Serena Williams leaves the court, retiring with a medical issue, during her match against Garbine Muguruza, of Spain, at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament Sunday, March 10, 2019, in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press

Serena Williams retires with viral illness at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP)

— Serena Williams' return to tennis after a five-week break ended early with her retiring from the BNP Paribas Open because of a viral illness on Sunday.

Williams raced to a 3-0 lead over two-time major champion Garbine Muguruza in their third-round match before dropping six straight games and the first set, 6-3. "By the score, it might have looked like I started well, but I was not feeling at all well physically," Williams said in a statement distributed by tournament officials.

During the changeover between sets, Williams called for a trainer. She went back out and lost the first game of the second set. The match was soon declared over and Williams walked off the court.

"Before the match, I did not feel great and then it just got worse with every second; extreme dizziness and extreme fatigue," Williams

said. "I will focus on getting better and start preparing for Miami."

Muguruza is the only player to have beaten both Serena and Venus Williams in tournament finals.

"It's really a weird feeling because I don't feel like I won the match point and well done, good match," Muguruza said. "It was just like, 'Man, we'll play next time.'"

The Spaniard credited Williams for being "very dominating" from the start of the match.

"I had to adapt a little bit my position in the court, the way I was hitting, and it took me a few games to kind of do it," Muguruza said. "Once I did it, I felt much more comfortable." Williams was playing her first tournament since the Australian Open in late January, when she lost in the quarterfinals.

After a first-round bye in Indian Wells, she beat Victoria Azarenka 7-5, 6-3 on Friday night.

It's the second time in four years that Williams has withdrawn from the tournament. She returned to the desert in 2015 after a 15-year boycott. That year she reached the semifinals before withdrawing against Simona Halep. She missed 2017 because of pregnan-

cy.

Earlier, Roger Federer beat Peter Gojowczyk 6-1, 7-5 in the second round.

Federer saved six of seven break chances against the German after losing just two points on his serve in the first set.

Federer has reached the final of the desert tournament in his last four appearances, winning two years ago. In all, he owns five titles at Indian Wells. He won his 100th career title in Dubai last week.

Halep, the No. 2 seed, needed nearly two hours to beat qualifier Kateryna Kozlova 7-6 (3), 6-3 in the third round.

Kozlova led 6-5 and was within two points of winning the first set before Halep forced a tiebreaker in their first meeting. Halep dominated the tiebreaker, urged on by a large contingent of Romanian fans at Indian Wells Tennis Garden. Other seeded men's winners were: No. 6 Kei Nishikori, No. 10 Marin Cilic, No. 14 Daniil Medvedev, No. 22 Kyle Edmund, No. 25 Diego Schwartzman and No. 32 Guido Pella.

No. 16 Fabio Fognini and No. 20 David Goffin were beaten.

On the women's side, No. 7 Kiki Bertens and No. 18 Qiang Wang advanced. □



From left, second placed Henrik Kristoffersen of Norway, winner Ramon Zenhausern of Switzerland and third placed Marcel Hirscher of Austria celebrate on the podium of an Alpine Skiing World Cup men's slalom, in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia, Sunday, March 10, 2019.

Associated Press

Hirscher

Continued from Page 18

Hirscher placed third in Sunday's penultimate slalom of the season, extending his lead to 509 points over second-place Alexis Pinturault of France, with only four events remaining. A race win is worth 100 points.

Henrik Kristoffersen of Norway was another 11 points further back in third.

Clinching the title was a formality for Hirscher as Pinturault is unlikely to start in Wednesday's downhill in Andorra, leaving the Frenchman with just three more races to score points. Sunday's race was won by Ramon Zenhausern of Switzerland, 1.15 seconds ahead of first-run leader Kristoffersen, while Pinturault finished seventh.

By winning the big crystal globe again, Hirscher has matched the World Cup record of 20 overall and discipline titles set by Lindsey Vonn, who won four overall, eight downhill, five super-G and three combined titles before retiring last month.

Hirscher already held the record for most overall championships as no other skier, male or female, has won more than six in the 53-year history of the World Cup.

He locked up the discipline titles in slalom and giant slalom weeks ago, winning both rankings for the sixth time in his career.

After finishing last season and finally having won Olympic gold, the only prize that was missing from his collection, Hirscher also thought loudly about retir-

ing. He kept fans in ski-mad Austria waiting for months before announcing in early July that he would ski on for at least one more season.

While he downplayed his chances going into the new campaign, citing his role as a family man, he has been as dominant as ever.

Hirscher soon went ahead in the slalom, GS and overall standings again, racking up 10 wins in the process to raise his career total to 68. Only Vonn (82) and Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark (86) won more races.

Hirscher failed to add another victory on Sunday. He won 12 of the previous 16 World Cup slaloms, but this time trailed by more than eight-tenths in sixth after the opening run before gaining three places in a strong second run.

On a weakened course after days of mild temperatures and rain, Zenhausern posted the fastest second-run time to improve from his seventh place in the opening leg.

It was the Swiss skier's third career victory, but first in a slalom. Both previous triumphs came in parallel city events in Stockholm, in February and a year ago.

"It's incredible, no idea how this happened," said Zenhausern, who earned his first slalom podium at the same resort a year ago. "Maybe I should buy a house and live here. I love Slovenia," he quipped.

Kristoffersen carried a big lead from the opening run but struggled and lost time early in his final run, preventing him from getting back-to-back victories on

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Kyle Busch completes weekend sweep in Arizona desert

By **DAVE SKRETTA**

AP Sports Writer

AVONDALE, Ariz. (AP) —

Kyle Busch made it a weekend sweep at ISM Raceway in the Arizona desert.

Just like he nearly did last week at Las Vegas.

Busch tracked down Ryan Blaney over a long green-flag run before passing his Team Penske rival for the lead with 16 laps to go, then made his fuel and tires last to the checkered flag to add a victory in the NASCAR Cup Series on Sunday to his triumph in the Xfinity Series race.

"We were going to be right on the verge," Busch said. "You have to go hard first and worry about fuel afterwards. After I got Blaney, I was able to save a little bit and take care of my tires for the rest of the lapped traffic I had to get through."

Busch's latest big weekend gives him 199 wins in NASCAR's top three series, including 52 at the Cup level. He will go for the 200 milestone next weekend at Auto Club Speedway in California.

"It's not for me to worry about. It's for everybody else to discuss and talk about and debate over," he said of its importance. "But for myself and the



Kyle Busch celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series auto race at ISM Raceway, Sunday, March 10, 2019, in Avondale, Ariz.

view I've had, I've been fortunate to be around a lot of great people and a lot of great sponsors."

Busch also won the Xfinity race last weekend at Las Vegas, and he would have hit the 200-mark on Sunday if not for a speeding penalty in the Cup Series race that left him with a third-place finish.

Even after victory outside Phoenix, Busch was still ru-

ing what might have been. "This makes last weekend feel so much stupider," he said. "I wish we would have swept last weekend, too, with two weekend sweeps in a row. But we'll take what we got today."

Martin Truex Jr. also got around Blaney to finish second, taking advantage of a No. 19 car that kept getting better on longer runs. Blaney wound up third af-

Associated Press

ter starting on the pole, and after having to make two stops during the final caution because of a lug-nut that would have come loose.

"I was kind of riding, trying to save tires, trying to save gas," said Blaney, who opted for two tires and track position on his final stop. "I think (Busch) was kind of riding back there, too. He knew what situation I was

in. I started to get real tight and we got to lapped cars and I was done."

Still, it was a momentum building result for Blaney, who had watched Team Penske teammates Joey Logano and Brad Keselowski reach victory lane the past two weeks. Blaney had been outside the top 20 in each of his first three races this season.

"It definitely was a good weekend after the start of the year we had," Blaney said. "A good day, the day we needed. We've been poised to have days like this and contend for wins and it just hasn't happened this year. This is what we deserve." Aric Almirola was fourth and Denny Hamlin was fifth, his car also performing better on long green-flag runs. Kyle Larsen drove to sixth from the back of the field after failing to get his money lap in during qualifying before time expired, while Kurt Busch and Jimmie Johnson also had strong runs.

"If you can't win, it's just about maximizing your day," Almirola said, "and we were really close on fuel. I didn't want to run out and finish 20th. I wanted to salvage a top-5 out of the day." □

Another race and another Team Penske victory with IndyCar win

By **JENNA FRYER**

AP Auto Racing Writer

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) —

Team Penske's hot start to the motorsports season continued Sunday with a Josef Newgarden victory in the IndyCar season opener — the fourth win for a Penske car in seven days spanning three series.

Newgarden crossed the finish line on the downtown streets of St. Petersburg at almost the exact same time Ryan Blaney, another Penske driver, led the field to green in the NASCAR race outside Phoenix. Team Penske won consecutive NASCAR races with Brad Keselowski and Joey Logano to

lock both into the playoffs, two Supercars races in Australia in the new Ford Mustang and now one of the showcase events on the IndyCar schedule.

The organization is off to such a strong start that Penske acknowledged his three-driver IndyCar lineup arrived at the opening race feeling pressure to match their counterparts.

Will Power and Newgarden delivered in qualifying by sweeping the front row, then Newgarden used tire strategy to put his Chevrolet out front.

"So proud of our group, we have the best of the best working for Team Penske,"

Newgarden said. "There's a lot of pressure at Team Penske, everybody is rising up, and we joined the group today."

It was the 204th victory in IndyCar for a Penske driver. "To come out here and have a pole with Will, sweep the front row and win the race with Josef is a great way to start our season on the IndyCar side with Chevrolet," Penske said. "Next week, we will be at Sebring and try to get our Acura Team Penske program in victory lane in the historic 12 hours race.

"But we need to keep looking out the windshield. The competition in all these



Team Penske driver Josef Newgarden (2), of the United States, celebrates after winning the IndyCar Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg (Fla.) auto race Sunday, March 10, 2019, in St Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

series is strong and they will keep improving. So we need to keep pushing. There is a long season ahead of us."

The sports car program, which started last year, had a third-place podium finish in the Rolex 24 Hours of

Daytona in January.

Scott Dixon finished second in a Honda for Chip Ganassi Racing but was stymied by lapped traffic in his bid to catch Newgarden.

"You know the lapped traffic is trying to stay on the lead lap," Dixon said. □

Modern policing: Algorithm helps NYPD spot crime patterns

By **MICHAEL R. SISAK**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When a syringe-wielding drill thief tried sticking up a Home Depot near Yankee Stadium, police figured out quickly that it wasn't a one-off. A man had also used a syringe a few weeks earlier while stealing a drill at another Home Depot 7 miles (11 kilometers) south in Manhattan.

The match, though, wasn't made by an officer looking through files. It was done by pattern-recognition computer software developed by the New York Police Department.

The software, dubbed Patternizr, allows crime analysts stationed in each of the department's 77 precincts to compare robberies, larcenies and thefts to hundreds of thousands of crimes logged in the NYPD's database, transforming their hunt for crime patterns with the click of a button.

It's much faster than the old method, which involved analysts sifting through reports, racking their brains for key details about various crimes and deciding whether they fit into a pattern. It's more comprehensive, too, with analysts able to spot patterns across the city instead of just in their precinct.

"Because Patternizr picked up those key details in the algorithm, it brought back

complaints from other precincts that I wouldn't have known," said Bronx crime

guilty to larceny and assault.

Evan Levine, the NYPD's

and Chohlas-Wood detailing their work in the INFORMS Journal on Applied

returned parts of patterns 80 percent of the time. The NYPD says the cost was minimal because the two developers were already on staff.

Like human crime analysts, the software compares factors such as method of entry, type of goods taken and the distance between crimes. Levin and Chohlas-Wood sought out the uniformed officers who had decades of experience identifying patterns using traditional methods.

"The real advantage of the tool is that we minimize the amount of leg work and busy work that analysts or detectives have to do and really allow them to leverage their expertise and their experience in going through a much smaller list of results," said Chohlas-Wood, now the deputy director of the Stanford Computational Policy Lab at Stanford University.

In the past, analysts worked only with crimes in their precinct, making it difficult or even impossible for them to spot patterns in other parts of the city.

"Truthfully, it was inefficient," Levine said. "It wasn't a modern way to do these things."

Even with crime rates falling sharply, there were still more than 68,000 robberies, burglaries and larcenies in New York City last year. Traditional techniques are still being used to identify other crime patterns, such as rapes and homicides.

To reduce possible racial biases, the Patternizr software doesn't examine the race of crime suspects when it is looking for crime patterns.

The New York Civil Liberties Union said it had not reviewed Patternizr but urged caution as technology is increasingly incorporated into law enforcement.

"To ensure fairness the NYPD should be transparent about the technologies it deploys and allows independent researchers to audit these systems before they are tested on New Yorkers," NYCLU legal director Christopher Dunn said in email. □



In this Feb. 11, 2019 photo, Rebecca Shutt, who works in the New York Police Department's Office of Crime Control Strategies, speaks in New York.

Associated Press

analyst Rebecca Shutt, who worked on the Home Depot case. "That was incredibly helpful. That could have been a pattern that wasn't made."

The software also found two other thefts committed with a syringe by the same suspect, who was eventually arrested and pleaded

assistant commissioner of data analytics, and Alex Chohlas-Wood, the department's former director of analytics, spent two years developing the software before rolling it out in December 2016.

The department disclosed its use of the technology only this month, with Levine

Analytics in an article alerting other departments how they could create similar software. Speaking about it with the news media for the first time, they told The Associated Press recently that theirs is the first police department in the country to use a pattern-recognition tool like this.

"The goal of Patternizr is, of course, to improve public safety," said Levine, an astrophysicist by academic training. "The more easily that we can identify patterns in those crimes, the more quickly we can identify and apprehend perpetrators."

Levine and Chohlas-Wood were inspired by the work of a New York University team that studied a similar approach to pattern recognition but never produced a workable version. The two trained the program on 10 years of patterns that the department had manually identified. In testing, it accurately recreated old crime patterns one-third of the time and

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Downtown

Haven't got your tax documents yet? Here's what to do

By **TINA OREM**
NerdWallet
Associated Press

Lost or missing documents can turn tax season into a giant headache, but they don't have to stall you for long. Here are some common tax necessities that might go missing — and what a tax pro says you can do if they give you the slip.

LOST: YOUR W-2

What to do: Go to HR or your payroll department. A W-2 reports how much your employer paid you during the tax year and how much tax it withheld on your behalf. Generally, employers have to provide W-2s to employees by Jan. 31. If yours is lost or never showed up, simply ask your employer for another one, says Mark Luscombe, a CPA and principal analyst at Wolters Kluwer Tax & Accounting. Check your old emails, too — many companies offer electronic access to company documents, including tax statements.

What else you can try: Call the IRS.

The IRS might be able to contact your employer about the missing tax document. But if you're up against the filing deadline or your employer went out of business, you can file IRS Form 4852, which is a substitute W-2. On it, you'll need to estimate your wages and taxes withheld for 2018. Your final pay stub for 2018 can probably help provide these figures, Luscombe notes.

LOST: OLD TAX RETURNS

What to do: Get a tax transcript from the IRS. This lets you see most line items from your federal tax returns for the current tax year and for returns processed during the prior three years. You can also get basic data such as how you paid and your adjusted gross income for the current tax year and for up to the last 10 years. Tax transcripts are free, but note: They aren't the same as a photocopy of your tax return. If that's what you're after, you'll probably need to fill out IRS Form 4506 in-



This July 24, 2018, file photo shows a portion of the 1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return form for 2018 in New York.

stead (and there's a fee). "If you were using a tax professional, they probably have it on file," Luscombe says. If you've been using tax software, your software provider might still have your old returns depending on the company and which version of the software you bought.

LOST: A 1099

What to do: Log in to your investment account. The 1099 is a record that some entity or person (not your employer) gave or paid you money. There are many types of 1099s, though some of the most popular ones — the 1099-DIV, 1099-B and 1099-R — report dividends, capital gains and other income from investments or retirement accounts. If you've lost one of those, you can probably get another in the tax-documents section of your investment account's website. What else you can try: Look at your year-end account statements. Generally, attaching 1099s to tax returns isn't required unless taxes were withheld from the payments, so if you can find the information somewhere else — like on your account statements — you might be OK, Luscombe says. "As long as you can recreate the information from statements, some people suggest not even bothering to try to get the 1099," he says.

"One, it's a lot of difficulty, and two, you don't have to send it to the IRS anyway." Also, whoever sends you a 1099 is supposed to send

Associated Press
a copy to the IRS, which raises the risk that the IRS might mistake that second 1099 issuance for a second payment and think you got

twice as much as you're reporting, Luscombe says.





LOST: YOUR 1098


What to do: Log on to your bank account. A 1098 shows how much interest you paid on a mortgage during the year — interest that could score you a tax deduction. Your mortgage lender likely provides access to this and other tax documents (such as your property tax payments) online.

What else you can try: Look at your year-end mortgage statement. You're not required to attach your 1098 to your tax return, Luscombe says, so if you can recreate the information from your monthly mortgage statement or similar, chasing down another copy of your 1098 may be unnecessary. "I would only do that if you're not confident in the information that you have," he notes. □

OPEN HOUSES

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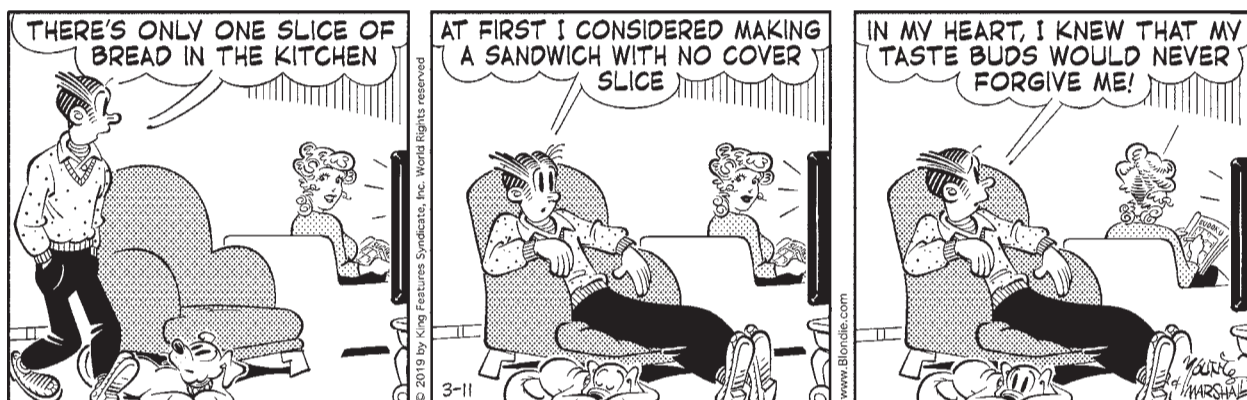
Mutts



6 Chix



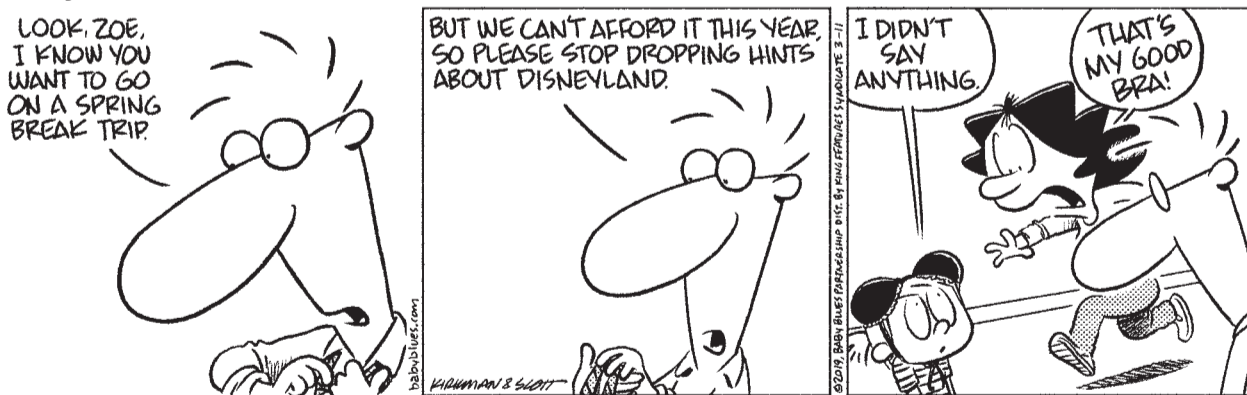
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	6	5		9		2			
				1		7			3
1		7					9		4
	8			4	6	9		3	
3									9
	5			7	3	1		2	
8		3					1		2
7				5		8			
		6		2			8	9	

Difficulty Level ★ 3/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

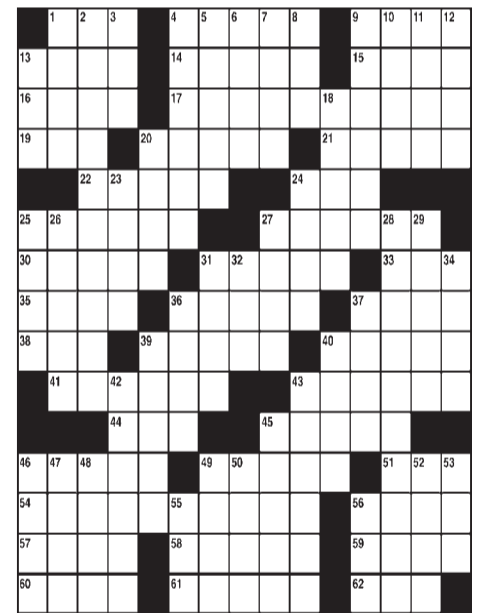
9	1	6	5	2	8	3	7	4
8	4	2	3	6	7	5	1	9
5	3	7	4	1	9	6	8	2
4	6	9	1	7	3	2	5	8
1	2	3	8	5	4	7	9	6
7	5	8	6	9	2	4	3	1
2	8	4	7	3	1	9	6	5
3	9	5	2	8	6	1	4	7
6	7	1	9	4	5	8	2	3

ACROSS

- 1 Fido's foot
- 4 "Yabba _ Doo!"
- 9 Additionally
- 13 "Cross my heart and _ to die"
- 14 African lilies
- 15 Middy
- 16 "Once _ a time..."
- 17 Sharp table utensil
- 19 Become firm
- 20 Bracelet dangler
- 21 Female relatives
- 22 Yellow shade
- 24 Not _ long shot
- 25 Pricy car
- 27 Misgivings
- 30 Skillful
- 31 Seal cracks
- 33 Unwell
- 35 Tubs
- 36 Deadly
- 37 "Guilty" or "Not guilty"
- 38 Parisian pal
- 39 Was bold
- 40 Nat King & Old King
- 41 Few and far between
- 43 One of Jacob's 12 sons
- 44 Abdomen
- 45 Glossy black bird
- 46 Actor Buddy
- 49 Put on, as a play
- 51 Org. for Nets & Nuggets
- 54 Covering completely
- 56 Expired
- 57 Tap a baseball
- 58 Steer clear of
- 59 Pitcher's delights
- 60 Watches
- 61 Drive too fast
- 62 "I _ Rock"; 1960s song

DOWN

- 1 Leo XIII's title
- 2 Remorseful
- 3 Actress Ming-Na _
- 4 One of Santa's reindeer
- 5 Sanctuary table
- 6 South African Dutchman
- 7 Sun's ray
- 8 Invite
- 9 Yearbook
- 10 Cut of pork
- 11 Mattress buyer's choice
- 12 Wallet items
- 13 Embrace
- 18 Paddled boat
- 20 Talk casually
- 23 Pieces of china
- 24 Male animal
- 25 Coffee
- 26 2nd U.S. president
- 27 Many an ATV
- 28 Long period of time
- 29 Slumber
- 31 Give a hoot
- 32 Dined
- 34 Word attached to eye or whip



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 3/11/19

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

V	O	W	S	T	I	O	G	A	B	L	E
O	A	H	U	O	N	A	I	R	B	R	A
T	R	I	P	P	O	S	S	E	S	S	I
E	S	S	L	I	N	T	W	E	E	K	S
P	L	A	C	E	B	O	N				
S	T	E	E	D	S	M	O	R	T	A	R
E	A	R	N	S	P	L	E	B	E	N	E
P	H	I	S	S	E	E	D	S	S	T	I
T	O	N	D	A	N	E	S	S	H	I	N
E	G	O	I	S	T	M	O	U	S	S	E
R	V	S	P	I	A	N	O				
C	A	C	A	O	S	I	L	K	C	B	S
U	N	A	T	T	A	C	H	E	D	S	I
B	O	N	E	S	A	U	C	E	P	A	I
A	X	E	S	A	L	T	E	R	A	L	P

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- 36 Verifiable truth
- 37 Sit for an artist
- 39 Blotto
- 40 Sheltered bay
- 42 Representatives
- 43 Uneven
- 45 "Home on the _"
- 46 Recedes
- 47 Depressed
- 48 Of sound mind
- 49 Traffic sign
- 50 Surfer's concern
- 52 Alpha's follower
- 53 Commercials
- 55 Bradley & Bradley
- 56 _ double take; look twice

Classifieds

Halley Time Travel

Divi Village

Sunday Check in building F
1 BR WK # 8 & 9 Same room
rd floor with 21 and 25 weeks
remain
on the contract \$9000 Each

Divi Links Golf

Saturday Check in Eagle 15
1BR WK 8 & 9 with 27
weeks remain \$9000 each
Eagle Resorts & Casino
1 Br WK 7 Ground floor \$5500

Divi Village

Building C Elevator
2 BR WK 13 \$14K
3rd floor with 29/8 accelerated
weeks remain
Divi Links Golf
Birdie 1
1 BR WK 11 & 12 \$9 K each
2 sd floor with 25 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

Birdie 1
Studio WK 11 \$8 K
2 sd floor with 27 weeks remain
Divi Village
Building C
1 BR WK #14 \$7500
1st floor with 16 weeks remain

Aruba Divi Phoenix

New Tower
1 BR WK 8 Building 6
4th floor with 26 weeks remain
\$15K
1 BR WK# 4 Building 7
6th floor with 28 weeks remain
\$15K

Aruba Divi Phoenix

New Tower
1 BR WK 10 building 8
6th floor 28 weeks remain \$15K
2 BR Penthouse wk 11 & 12
building 9 the 7 th floor
33 weeks remain \$25 K each

Aruba Divi Phoenix

New Tower
Studio wk 9
building 6 ,5th floor
with 30 weeks remain \$10 K
1 BR wk 11
building 7 3rd floor
34 weeks remain \$15K

La Cabana Beach and Casino

Sunday Check in
1 BR WK 11 & 12 \$18 K Both
weeks
4th floor pool/ocean view
Renaissance suites
1 BR WK 9 \$9 K
4th floor harbor /ocean view

Barcelo Resort

all inclusive
studio wk 8 & 9 \$25 K both
1 BR wk 8 \$15K
2 BR WK 9 & 10 \$20 K each
Floating Weeks Platinum
1 BR , 2 BR wk 2/17

Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum Weeks
1 BR Ocean View \$12 K
2 BR Ocean View \$17 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$28 K

Marriott Surf Club

Platinum
2 BR Garden View \$15 K
2 BR Ocean View \$16 K
2 BR Ocean Side \$17 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$27 K
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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448

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Noord	527 3200
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San Nicolas	584 5000
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Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
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A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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Wanted: More pastures for West's overpopulated wild horses

By **MEAD GRUVER**

Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — If you ever wished to gaze at a stomping, snorting, neighing panorama of Western heritage from your living-room window, now could be your chance.

A classic image of the American West — wild horses stampeding across the landscape — not only has endured through the years but has multiplied past the point of range damage. Through May 3, the U.S. government is seeking more private pastures for an overpopulation of wild horses.

Many consider rounding up wild horses to live out their lives on private pastures a reasonable approach to a tricky problem. Wild horses, after all, not only have romantic value, they are protected by federal law.

Just keep in mind a few of the dozens of requirements for getting paid by the government to provide wild horses a home.

"It's not like you can do this in your backyard, or even a 5 acre (2 hectare) plot," said Debbie Collins, outreach specialist for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Program in Norman, Oklahoma.

You need a lot of fenced-in land, enough to sustain anywhere from 200 to 5,000 healthy horses. Exactly how much land depends on pasture quality as determined by the government, but you can safely assume several hundred if not thousands of acres (hectares). The pastured horses typically are left on their own with little human intervention. Still, they require continuous water and basic shelter from the elements, such as trees or a canyon;



In this July 18, 2018, file photo, a wild horse jumps among others near Salt Lake City.

supplemental forage; and corrals for loading and unloading from trailers.

Participants in the private-pasture system must live in 14 Western and Midwestern states, from eastern Washington to the Texas Panhandle. Over two-thirds of the 37 existing off-range pastures are in Oklahoma and Kansas. And: These horses aren't pets. They've had little exposure to people. Many are over 5 years old and therefore not ideal for training and individual adoption or sale, other options available through the BLM. Still, there's no shortage of interest in the off-range pasture program. People call all the time asking for details, Collins said.

"My only advice would be to go into it with your eyes wide open," said Dwayne Oldham, a former Wyoming state veterinarian who has taken in wild horses on his family's Double D cattle ranch outside Lander, Wyoming, since 2015.

Working with the government can be demanding, but providing for the over 130 horses on the Wind Riv-

er Wild Horse Sanctuary on the ranch isn't too difficult, Oldham said.

The sanctuary is a little different from most private wild-horse pastures: It's open to the public. Tourists headed to Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks increasingly stop there.

About 50 miles (80 kilome-

ters) to the south, cattle ranchers, wild horse advocates and the BLM have been embroiled in decades of lawsuits over wild horses in an area of mostly unfenced, interspersed public and private lands called the Checkerboard. The booming wild horse population there competes with cattle for forage

and water in the high desert, the ranchers claim.

The BLM abides by the 1971 Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, which protects wild horses and burros on BLM land in 10 Western states, attorneys for the government say.

"We want to be part of the solution and not just the adversary," Oldham said.

A group often involved in wild-horse litigation, the American Wild Horse Campaign, says darting mares with contraceptives is the best answer to overpopulation but is underused. Roundups only encourage compensatory breeding and overpopulation, said Grace Kuhn with the group. However, the group doesn't oppose off-range pastures as an alternative to keeping wild horses in corrals for long periods.

"We do advocate that if the government is going to be removing wild horses from the range, long-term is more cost-effective than short-term holding," Kuhn said. □

Explorers to send 1st live video broadcast from ocean depths

By **JERRY HARMER and DAVID KEYTON**

Associated Press

ALPHONSE ATOLL, Seychelles (AP) — Explorers are set to deliver the first live video broadcast from deep below an ocean's surface.

Early next week, a submersible is expected to dive to 300 meters (nearly 1,000 feet) off the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean and send images to a satellite transmitter on the mother ship. The Associated Press will send that footage around the world.

The British-led Nekton Mission highlights the state of the oceans as fears grow over climate change. The Indian Ocean is the least explored in the world, and there is almost no data from the Seychelles below scuba depth. That's about to change.

The challenge is to transmit



Researchers conducted the first sea tests of a submersible crucial to the British-based Nekton Mission which will explore the Indian Ocean during a seven-week long science expedition.

Associated Press

live video from the depths without restricting the free-roaming submersible. The solution turns the images into light, which is transmitted to a decoder suspended above the submersible and then sent to the mother ship via fiber-optic cable.

"The real clever bit is, we are now transmitting two high-bandwidth streams of video data from both of the submarines simultaneously and this has never been done before," said Darryl Newborough, whose company is behind the innovation. □

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National Women's Hall of Fame announces Class of 2019

Carolyn Thompson
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, actress Jane Fonda and attorney Gloria Allred are being inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. They are among 10 members of the Class of 2019, announced Friday.

The other honorees are: Civil rights activist Angela Davis; Native American lawyer Sarah Deer; retired Air Force fighter pilot Nicole Malachowski; the late suffragist and cartoonist Rose O'Neill; New York Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, who died last year; composer Laurie Spiegel, and AIDS researcher Flossie Wong-Staal.

"We are pleased to add these American women to the ranks of inductees whose leadership and achievements have changed the course of American history," hall of fame President Betty Bayer said.

The formal induction ceremony will take place in September outside Seneca Falls, the upstate city considered the birthplace of



This undated photo provided by the National Women's Hall of Fame shows actress, author and political activist Jane Fonda, who is among the 10 members of the National Women's Hall of Fame Class of 2019, that was announced Friday, March 8, 2019, in New York City.

women's rights where the hall is located.

The eight living and two deceased honorees will join 276 other women who've been inducted to date, including suffragists, sports and political figures, authors and entertainers. Those honored are nominated by the public and judged by a team of experts across the various fields.

More about this year's class:

—Gloria Allred has represented women in nu-

merous high-profile and celebrity cases, including several women currently accusing singer R. Kelly of sexual abuse. In more than

Associated Press

40 years in practice, she has been honored for her work on behalf of marriage equality, LGBTQ civil rights and against the exclusion of women from private clubs.

—Angela Davis has been politically active for decades, including as a member of the Black Panther Party, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and Communist Party USA. More recently, she has been an outspoken supporter of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement targeting Israel's treatment of Palestinians. —Sarah Deer is a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma and an activist for indigenous women. A law-

yer and University of Kansas professor, her work on violence against Native American women has been recognized by the American Bar Association and the Department of Justice.

—Jane Fonda, an actress, author and political activist, has received Academy Awards, Golden Globes, a Primetime Emmy and the AFI Life Achievement Award. In 2018, she was the subject of the HBO documentary "Jane Fonda in Five Acts." Her anti-war activism in the 1970s stirs debate and demonstrators to this day. Fonda acknowledged making a "terrible mistake" by posing atop an anti-aircraft gun during a controversial 1972 visit to North Vietnam. □

Jennifer Lopez and Alex Rodriguez are engaged

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jennifer Lopez said yes to Alex Rodriguez's proposal, and with the rock he presented, who could say no?

The couple posted an Instagram photo of their hands with a massive engagement ring on Lopez's ring finger. The former Yankees shortstop captioned his photo with "she said yes" and a heart emoji.

The couple has been dating since early 2017 and later that year landed on the cover of Vanity Fair magazine with their celebrity couple nickname, J-Rod.

In January, Rodriguez told The Associated Press that he and Lopez had similar backgrounds and her latest film "Second Act" reflected the ties that drew them together.



In this Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019, file photo, Alex Rodriguez, left, and Jennifer Lopez arrive at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

"It really resembles a lot of the arc that Jennifer and I lived in our life: Both born in New York, both come from immigrant parents, both have two children, both Latino Americano — her from Puerto Rico, me from Dominican Republic. □

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'Captain Marvel' rockets to historic \$153M debut

By JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — "Captain Marvel," Marvel Studios' first female-fronted superhero movie, launched with \$153 million domestically and \$455 million globally, according to studio estimates Sunday, making it one of the biggest blockbusters ever led by a woman.

Brie Larson's Carol Danvers, a character who first debuted in Marvel Comics in 1968, had never before made it into the movies and was previously lesser known than many Marvel heroes. But "Captain Marvel," which came in at the high end of the Walt Disney Co.'s expectations, ranks as one of Marvel's most successful character debuts.

Only "The Avengers" movies, "Black Panther," "Captain America: Civil War" and "Iron Man 3" have opened better in the Marvel cinematic universe.

"She definitely pushed us higher, further, faster," said Disney distribution chief Cathleen Taff.



This image released by Disney-Marvel Studios shows Brie Larson in a scene from "Captain Marvel."

"Captain Marvel" rocketed up other record books, too. It sets a new worldwide mark for a film directed or co-directed by a woman. "Captain Marvel" was helmed by the filmmaking team of Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck, who previously made the indies "Half Nelson" and "Mississippi Grind."

It's the sixth largest worldwide debut ever. The only movie with a female lead that's opened better globally was "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," which grossed \$529 million when it debuted in 2015.

Like the "Force Awakens" sequel "The Last Jedi," "Captain Marvel" had to tangle with trolls who sought to lessen the film's impact. Some fans claimed Larson's hero didn't smile enough, a charge she responded to with doctored pictures of previous male Marvel superheroes with awkwardly full grins. Others took issue with Larson's statements about making her press interviews for the film more inclusive and not "overwhelmingly white male."

The anti-"Captain Marvel" campaign included the flooding of Rotten Tomatoes audience scores, which artificially drove

down the film's score to 55 percent fresh from more than 44,000 votes as of Sunday. To combat the downvoting issue in advance of "Captain Marvel," Rotten Tomatoes (which doesn't require users to verify that they've seen a movie that they're scoring) removed the ability to rate movies prior to release.

Taff declined to address "Captain Marvel" foes but applauded Marvel and Kevin Feige for propelling a movie that expanded the Marvel universe.

"What they believe is that the more you diversify perspective and experience in front of and behind the camera, the better the

movies and the stories are," said Taff of Marvel. "You see that in their track record. I think you see that in their box office. And I think you see that in the broadening of their fan base." CinemaScore, which relies on interviews with audience members coming out of theaters, found crowds very much liked "Captain Marvel," giving it an A rating. Reviews were less enthusiastic but still good, landing 79 percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes.

It was easily the best opening of any movie thus far in 2019. The box office had been frigidly cold coming into the weekend with ticket sales down 26 percent, according to Comscore. "Captain Marvel" single-handedly chopped almost 5 percent off that figure with a weekend that overall was up 47 percent from the same last year.

"The box office year of 2019 officially started this weekend," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "We're going to have one of the biggest box-office years ever but looking at the first two months, you wouldn't know it." □

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	CXC MONTHU 6:00 8:20 FRI 6:00 8:20 11:20 SAT 3:20 6:00 8:20 11:20 SUN 3:20 6:00 8:20
	VIP MONTHU 3:55 4:45 6:35 7:25 9:20 FRI 3:55 4:45 6:35 7:25 9:20 10:10 SAT 1:15 2:05 3:55 4:45 6:35 7:25 9:20 10:10 SUN 1:15 2:05 3:55 4:45 6:35 7:25 9:20
	JEAN-CLAUDE VAN DAMME ELIJAH RODRIGUEZ WE DIE YOUNG MONTHU 5:20 7:35 9:30 FRI 5:20 7:35 9:30 11:35 SAT 1:10 3:15 5:20 7:35 9:30 11:35 SUN 1:10 3:15 5:20 7:35 9:30
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	ROSA SALAZAR CHRISTOPH WALTZ ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MONTHU & SUN 4:00 9:30 FRSAT 4:00 9:30 11:45 [PG-13]
	GERARD BUTLER CATE BLANCHETT HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE BEGGING WOMEN WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MONTHU 4:15 6:30 8:45 • FRI 4:15 6:30 8:45 11:00 SAT 2:00 4:15 6:30 8:45 11:00 SUN 2:00 4:15 6:30 8:45 [PG]
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Surprising return for Britain's Specials

By DAVID BAUDER

Associated Press

The Specials, "Encore" (Island)

Given that it's been 20 years since there's been new music from the Specials, who led a ska revival in Britain at the dawn of the 1980s that had little imprint on the U.S., it's reasonable to approach "Encore" with few expectations.

Time for an adjustment. This is a bracingly fresh and relevant disc, by no means a limp nostalgia exercise. The Specials fight through cynicism in politics and address gun control, women's rights and Black Lives Matter without sounding like scolds.

"Vote for Me" puts modern politicians to the test behind a rock steady groove that musically echoes the band's 1981 hit "Ghost Town." Lynval Goulding ties together racism experienced by him and his Jamaican immigrant father in Britain and the United States in "BLM." Guest vocalist Saffiyah Khan's "Ten Commandments" is a feminist anthem. "I shall not be candy on your arm," she raps. "I shall be seen and I will be heard." Elsewhere, singer Terry Hall explains depression in a moving spoken-word piece.



This cover image released by Island Records shows "Encore," a release by The Specials.

Associated Press

The Specials smoothly update their sound, with the 1970s-style funk of the opening cover song, "Black Skin Blue Eyed Boys," similarly signaling the past won't box them in.

"Encore" contains a second disc with live versions of past favorites from a recent tour. Probably intended to entice old fans, it's strictly a bonus. The new music stands on its own. □



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Emoji gods approve skin-tone options for couples of color

By **LEANNE ITALIE**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In 1664, Maryland passed the first British colonial law banning marriage between whites and slaves. An 1883 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that state prohibitions on interracial marriage don't violate the Fourteenth Amendment held for more than 80 years.

While such impediments to marriage were dismantled over time, there are still hurdles, however small, to overcome. Here, in 2019, interracial couples have a small victory to celebrate: The approval of 71 new variations of emoji for couples of color.

Capping a yearlong project thought up by, of all people, the folks at the swipe-right dating app Tinder, the emoji gods (known as the Unicode Consortium) recently approved the additions in characters technically referred to as



This undated illustration provided by Tinder/Emojination shows new variations of interracial emoji couples. In the world of emojis, interracial couples had virtually no options in terms of skin tone.

Associated Press people "holding hands." A new "gender-inclusive" couple emoji was also approved among 230 new characters.

Until now, emoji of two or more people on various platforms and devices

have been available only in the default yellow. While the Unicode Consortium, where Google, Microsoft and Apple have voting seats, signed off on the skin-tone additions, companies will decide for themselves starting later this year whether to add them and how they will look.

Jenny Campbell, the chief marketing officer for Tinder, isn't worried about distribution after the company mounted a campaign and petition drive in support of the technical proposal it submitted to Unicode.

"Ultimately, we wanted to get the interracial emoji couple on people's keyboards not only for equality, but also to spread acceptance for all couples no matter what their race," she told The Associated Press on Thursday. "Our users are craving a way to express themselves visually and see themselves reflected in our everyday tech language."

So are lots of other emoji enthusiasts of color left in the wings for years. More than 50,000 people signed Tinder's online petition at Change.org.

While facial features and hair textures are yet to be determined by some vendors, Tinder said the use of six existing skin tones already available for one-person emoji and various others is a step in the right direction at a time when the text- and chat-friendly characters remain a readily accessible way for the world to express itself. The lack of color options in couples, the company said, felt like a slight.

"Even as our social behaviors have evolved and interracial dating and marriage has become more prevalent, visual representation of these relationships in technology has lagged far behind," Campbell said. Emoji of single people of color and same-sex cou-

ples were added in the last several years, but not in mixed-tone combinations. In real life, the rate of interracial marriage has increased over the years, especially since the 1967 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Loving v. Virginia* that struck down all anti-miscegenation laws remaining in 16 states. But such marriages remain a small portion of marriages overall.

"We know that equal forms of representation are important to our users," Campbell said, "and important to us."

Skin tones for limited use were added to the Unicode Standard for emoji in 2015. More representation of women in 2016, some "gender-inclusive" people in 2017 and hair color options last year.

Also approved this year: A waffle, a much-requested white heart, a guide dog and people in wheelchairs. Oh, and a sloth. □

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